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## Sixth Committee

### Summary record of the 3rd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 9 October 2012, at 10 a.m.

*Chair* : Mr. Sergeyev .....(Ukraine)

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Agenda item 105: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*)

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.*

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

1. **Mr. Salem** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that Africa had long recognized the need to take concrete measures to combat terrorism, as seen from the 1999 Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, the plan of action prepared at the Inter-Governmental High Level Meeting on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in Africa, held in Algiers from 11 to 14 September 2002, and the 2004 establishment of the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) in Algiers. The African States unequivocally condemned all forms of terrorism, including State terrorism. He welcomed the work of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 and invited all States to cooperate in resolving the outstanding issues on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. However, that instrument should not in any way result in denial of the right of peoples to self-determination. The African Group was willing to work with other delegations to refine the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and to achieve consensus on the draft text of the convention. The proposal to convene a high-level conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, to formulate an international response to terrorism in all its forms should be given serious consideration.

2. Member States should enhance their cooperation in counter-terrorism, including apprehending terrorists and investigating and preventing terrorist acts. It was also important for them to cooperate in addressing the problem of hostage-taking by terrorist groups since the payment of ransom was one of the main sources of terrorist financing. He welcomed the initiatives taken to encourage cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, including the Trans-Sahara Counter-Terrorism Initiative (TSCTI) developed by ACSRT and the United States Government Africa Center for Strategic Studies. He also welcomed the Madrid Declaration and Plan of Action on strengthening the legal regime against terrorism in West and Central Africa.

3. Measures should be taken to ensure more effective implementation of the counter-terrorism conventions and related United Nations resolutions, as well as to step up capacity-building in developing countries. The African countries were endeavouring to meet their international counter-terrorism obligations, but their resources and capacity were often inadequate for the task; he therefore appealed for assistance from the international community.

4. **Mr. Delgado Sánchez** (Cuba) said that his Government condemned all terrorist acts, whatever their motivation, including those in which States were implicated directly or indirectly. Counter-terrorism efforts should be holistic, reflecting the four pillars of the Global Strategy, and should include both direct action and prevention, as well as specific measures to eradicate the root causes of terrorism. It was unacceptable that under the pretext of counter-terrorism, some States committed acts of aggression, intervened in the internal affairs of other States, and committed or allowed the commission of flagrant violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, such as torture, abduction, unlawful detention, forced disappearance and extrajudicial execution. Such double standards and unilateral actions ran counter to the Charter of the United Nations and the purposes and principles of international law and reinforced extremist ideologies while undermining the legitimacy of the struggle against international terrorism.

5. Cuba would continue working to strengthen the central function of the United Nations in adopting legislation to combat international terrorism and was a State party to all the primary international counter-terrorism instruments. His Government was wholly committed to the struggle against terrorism and supported the adoption of a comprehensive convention to address existing legislative gaps. Such a convention must extend to the activities of those in command of a State's armed forces or in control of irregular paramilitary groups.

6. His delegation was in favour of holding an international conference under United Nations auspices to prepare an organized response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It categorically rejected the July 2012 decision by the State Department of the United States of America to include Cuba once more in a list of States alleged to be sponsoring international terrorism.

7. The United States authorities knew that Cuba had an impeccable record of combating terrorism and that it had never allowed, and would never allow, its territory to be used for carrying out, masterminding or financing terrorist acts against any State, but their current policies towards Cuba were motivated by the interests of extremists in Miami with links to Washington. A cable dated 27 February 2009 from the United States Interests Section in Cuba, obtained by Wikileaks, acknowledged that there were no anti-American or other indigenous terrorist groups in Cuba and that Cuba's Government would not permit any organization to operate in the country for terrorist purposes. Moreover, former United States President Jimmy Carter had stated as much during a visit to Cuba.

8. Nevertheless, the Department of State continued to act with double standards and immorality in order to justify its irrational policy towards Cuba, which, for over 50 years, had been the victim of an economic, commercial and financial blockade pursued in defiance of the international community. Even now, the best-known terrorist in the Western hemisphere, Luis Posada Carriles, was able to walk free in Miami or New York. Had the United States authorities not colluded in 713 terrorist acts perpetrated in Cuba in the space of some 50 years, causing 3,478 deaths and 2,099 cases of debilitating injury, it might have been possible to treat as a joke the sham of his trial in Texas, which the United States had used to evade compliance with its international obligations. The United States Federal Bureau of Investigation and Central Intelligence Agency, as their own declassified documents showed, recognized his guilt. As, after seven years, Posada Carriles had still not been formally accused of terrorism, the Government's complicity was evident; perhaps it believed that he was a "good" terrorist or that his victims did not count, viewing them as "collateral damage" because they were not United States citizens.

9. Double standards had also resulted in five Cubans spending over 14 years unjustly imprisoned in the United States, suffering cruel and degrading treatment, simply for defending their country from such terrorists. United States politicians should be shamed into prosecuting the true terrorists and releasing the men who had struggled to protect the people of Cuba and the United States from violent terrorist acts.

10. **Mr. Kebret** (Ethiopia) said that, despite the progress made, implementation of the Global Strategy

had not yet produced the desired results. Effective measures were required in order to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, build State capacity and respect human rights and the rule of law. Terrorism was a complex, ever-changing phenomenon in terms of its motivation, financing and support mechanisms, methods of attack and choice of targets; unity and commitment would help to reduce its threat. While Member States bore the primary responsibility for implementing the Global Strategy, international, regional and subregional organizations should continue to play a key role. The international community's long-term response should include dialogue, understanding and efforts to counter the appeal of terrorism.

11. Terrorists had increased their use of new information and communication technologies and were increasingly using the Internet to raise money, recruit supporters and spread propaganda. The international community's response had thus far been inadequate; greater cooperation among United Nations entities and with the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) would help to promote transparency and ensure coordination and coherence of efforts within the United Nations system. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's recommendation regarding the appointment of a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator.

12. Ethiopia had ratified nine of the international counter-terrorism instruments, the OAU Declaration on a Code of Conduct for Inter-African Relations and the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism. Its domestic law provided a comprehensive legal framework for counter-terrorism and his Government, with support from CTITF, had hosted a regional workshop on implementation of the Global Strategy, held in Addis Ababa on 27 and 28 July 2011. Money-laundering and terrorist financing were serious challenges and Ethiopia's financial intelligence unit was addressing the flow of suspicious funds. His Government was committed to cooperating fully with the Task Force and with regional bodies and would continue to work at the national, regional and global levels to create an environment hostile to terrorism.

13. **Mr. Kyaw** (Myanmar) said that his Government supported the Global Strategy as a framework for international counter-terrorism cooperation. Pursuant to the relevant Security Council resolutions, it was working with the Counter-Terrorism Committee

Executive Directorate (CTED) to draft new counter-terrorism and anti-money-laundering legislation.

14. Myanmar, itself a victim of terrorism, had consistently condemned it in all its forms and manifestations. Counter-terrorism measures must not become a pretext for any country to interfere in the internal affairs of another, and the measures taken to combat terrorism must be in line with the principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations. There was no necessary link between terrorism and any particular religion, race, culture or identity. The international community should particularly condemn terrorist acts that targeted innocent people, including diplomats and vulnerable groups such as women and children.

15. Myanmar was a party to 11 of the international counter-terrorism instruments and a signatory to an additional one. At the regional level, it had signed the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Convention on Counter-Terrorism in 2007 and was cooperating with the member States of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC). Its domestic legislation on terrorism included its Penal Code of 1861, Control of Money Laundering Law of 2002 and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Law of 2004. It had established central control bodies and a financial intelligence unit and was a member of the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering. Preventive and capacity-building measures, especially for developing countries, deserved special attention; in light of the importance of that issue, further deliberations on the Secretary-General's proposal to appoint a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator were needed.

16. **Mr. Wang Min** (China) said that it was important to uphold unified standards in international counter-terrorism cooperation and unequivocally to oppose terrorist acts, regardless of their motivation, wherever and by whomever committed. Inconsistent positions based on national interests would defeat the purpose of counter-terrorism and undermine international cooperation. Since terrorism arose from a complicated set of political, economic and social factors and was often accompanied by the spread of separatism, extremism, violent hatred and intolerance, military and law enforcement measures could be counter-productive. Counter-terrorism measures should address the symptoms and root causes of terrorism

simultaneously through a holistic approach that focused on promoting development and eliminating polarization and social injustice while resolving regional conflicts.

17. His Government supported strict implementation of the Global Strategy, the relevant Security Council resolutions and strengthened coordination of United Nations counter-terrorism agencies. It welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre while emphasizing that any assistance provided should respect the wishes and choices of the Member States concerned.

18. Terrorism should not be associated with individual States, Governments, ethnicities or religions. The international community should advocate dialogue among civilizations, religions and ethnicities in order to promote mutual respect, understanding and tolerance. Counter-terrorism activities must also comply with the Charter of the United Nations and international law and must respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of States. His delegation called on countries that had not yet done so to consider acceding to the 13 international counter-terrorism instruments. It actively supported the preparation of a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and urged all parties to take a constructive approach to resolving the outstanding issues and to strive for its early adoption.

19. His Government was committed to creating a harmonious society and to achieving social justice, equality, stability and unity through an integrated approach involving the promotion of economic development and education. It attached great importance to the prevention of terrorism and had adopted counter-terrorism legislation and enhanced its capacity-building in that area. It continued to play an active role in international cooperation on counter-terrorism within the framework of the United Nations, based on the principle of equality and mutual benefits, and was actively involved in various bilateral and regional cooperation activities. His country was also a victim of acts of terrorism by the Eastern Turkestan Islamic Movement, which posed a serious threat to national security and to regional peace and stability. The struggle against the Movement was an important element of his Government's international counter-terrorism campaign.

20. **Mr. Kim Yong Song** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that immediate steps should be

taken to eliminate terrorist acts against sovereign States as such acts posed a grave challenge to global counter-terrorism efforts. The invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq and the infringement of their sovereign rights by the United States of America had led to the destruction of peace and stability in the region and to a continuing vicious cycle of terrorism and retaliation. Systematic State terrorism and politically motivated terrorist acts designed to cause internal disturbance and regime change in sovereign States were the most dangerous type of terrorism and the root cause of all its forms.

21. Terrorist acts against the innocent civilian population in Syria were still rampant because of continued support for and manipulation of armed terrorist organizations by the United States, which was publicly manoeuvring for regime change. United States intelligence agencies were also manipulating a terrorist group, based in the Republic of Korea, which was plotting to destroy his country's national monuments, including statues of its leaders. Thus, the United States was committing acts of State terrorism.

22. The draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism should clearly reflect the need to eliminate politically motivated terrorist acts committed by the armed forces of States. Global counter-terrorism efforts should be consistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and should not be misused as a way of interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign States or effecting regime change. False and arbitrary accusations of terrorism against States, the application of pressure and sanctions and the use of military force should not be allowed. His delegation supported the Egyptian proposal to convene a United Nations high-level meeting on terrorism and hoped that the event would help to identify the root causes of terrorism and ways of eliminating it.

23. His Government had consistently opposed all forms of terrorism and support for terrorists. It was working to bring its domestic law into line with the international counter-terrorism conventions in light of events in the Korean Peninsula and was developing a national counter-terrorism system.

24. **Mr. Bin Naifeh** (Qatar) said that terrorism and its root causes should be addressed not by waging wars, which could only spread destruction and fear, but through a global, coordinated effort and within a

legitimate legal framework that respected the principles of human rights. Governments' use of terror against their own citizens was just another form of terrorism.

25. Anyone living on Qatari soil who committed a crime abroad - including drug trafficking, human trafficking, piracy or terrorism - either as perpetrator or accomplice would be prosecuted, irrespective of nationality or citizenship. The State's Code of Criminal Procedure provided for cooperation with foreign and international judicial authorities on criminal matters. In 2007, Qatar had established a National Anti-Terrorism Committee and had ratified several regional counter-terrorism instruments, including the Convention of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf on Combating Terrorism and the Convention of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation on Combating International Terrorism. It had also signed many bilateral memorandums of understanding and agreements in the field of security cooperation. It was a party to the majority of the international counter-terrorism instruments and was in the process of ratifying the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. His Government was committed to implementing the relevant Security Council resolutions and to building close cooperation with other countries and international organizations to that end.

26. In cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), his Government had hosted a subregional workshop for the member States of the Gulf Council on nuclear terrorism, held in Doha on 29 and 30 April 2008, with the participation of experts from CTED, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

27. The draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism should contain a clear definition of terrorism that took into account the legitimate rights of peoples under colonial and foreign occupation. Associating terrorism with a particular religion, culture or ethnic group was not only wrong; it was provocative and could feed the root causes of terrorism. All peace-loving nations should take action against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including incitement to terrorism, in accordance with international law.

28. **Mr. Gumende** (Mozambique) said that his Government strongly condemned terrorism in all its

forms and manifestations, regardless of the motivation and wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed; it threatened international peace and security and undermined global efforts to achieve economic and social development. The United Nations had a central role to play as the sole universal political mechanism capable of preventing and combating international terrorism, including by supporting institutional capacity-building in developing countries. A CTED delegation had visited his country on 30 and 31 January 2012 and had produced a report with valuable recommendations for enhancing Mozambique's counter-terrorism strategy.

29. Appropriate national and international measures to eliminate attacks on religious beliefs, as well as those carried out on the pretext of religion, should be pursued as no religion condoned acts of violence. A comprehensive and global approach was needed in order to address the causes and manifestations of terrorism, a goal that required the united political will of the entire international community. Member States should show flexibility and a spirit of compromise in order to conclude negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism; a universally accepted legal definition of terrorism was crucial to ending impunity for terrorists and improving the international community's response. Lastly, all Member States should ratify and implement the international counter-terrorism instruments.

30. **Mr. Tladi** (South Africa) said that his delegation abhorred all forms of terrorism and strongly condemned all terrorist acts, wherever and by whomsoever committed, as fundamental violations of international law and human rights. All manifestations of terrorism should be rejected, not only on the basis of philosophical principles, United Nations resolutions and complex arguments but because of their horrendous impact on the lives of men, women and children everywhere. However, all efforts to eradicate terrorism be fully consistent with international human rights law.

31. His Government supported the joint CTED and CTITF initiatives for implementation of the Global Strategy. Further strengthening of such initiatives, which included joint workshops held in Nigeria and Kenya with a view to strengthened regional cooperation, would ensure the effectiveness of United Nations counter-terrorism efforts. The changes in the sanctions regime pursuant to Security Council

resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) were an important development; due process standards had been significantly improved, driven largely by the Council's fear of national repudiation of the sanctions regimes; and sunset clauses had been introduced through resolution 1989 (2011). However, that resolution had also deprived some listed individuals, particularly those now placed under the regime pursuant to resolution 1988 (2011), of the limited protection that they had previously enjoyed. More importantly, while the sunset clauses had given greater weight to the Ombudsperson's recommendations, the listing and delisting process was still principally based on political rather than judicial or quasi-judicial considerations. The Council should further improve its due process standards during the 2012 review of the sanctions regime.

32. He commended the States that had become parties to the various sectoral counter-terrorism instruments. The draft comprehensive convention was potentially significant and his delegation attached great importance to its adoption at the current session of the General Assembly on the basis of the 2007 text. However, if there was no political will to do so, Member States should accept that fact and wait for two or three years before returning to the issue.

33. **Mr. Desta** (Eritrea) said that his Government unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed. Acts of terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group and due regard should be given to the legitimate struggle for self-determination.

34. Terrorism could not be combated by military means alone and any action taken must be consistent with international law. It had not yet been possible to conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism since Member States continued to ponder the definition of terrorism. While the adoption of such an instrument remained a high priority, the policies and actions of the international community should continue to be guided by the Global Strategy. Equal emphasis and resources should be devoted to the four pillars of the Strategy, including efforts to address the root causes of terrorism, such as long-standing conflicts, aggressions and conditions of inequality and poverty. The use or threat of use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State should not be invoked under the pretext of combating

terrorism. He reiterated his Government's commitment to developing and enforcing effective counter-terrorism measures that were consistent with international law.

35. **Mr. Maina** (Kenya) said that terrorism knew no nationality, civilization, ethnicity or religion and had devastating effects on the economic, social and political fabric of society. Multilateral prevention efforts must be well-coordinated since acts of terrorism were becoming increasingly complex. It was important to reach agreement on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Technical cooperation and assistance were crucial for capacity-building to ensure the effectiveness of national legal frameworks and strategies. His Government appreciated the important role played by UNODC in the region and the expanding range of technical assistance provided.

36. Kenya was a party to 14 of the international counter-terrorism instruments and its Constitution provided for direct application of international treaties after their ratification. The country was under review by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) International Cooperative Review Group and the East and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group and was implementing recommendations made by those two bodies. The recently adopted Prevention of Terrorism Act would complement the Proceeds of Crime and Money Laundering Act of 2010 and the Mutual Legal Assistance Act of 2011. It would foster greater cooperation with other States on those matters and strengthen national implementation of the Global Strategy and Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001).

37. Kenya had been a victim of major terrorist attacks in the past. More recently, a series of low-intensity attacks had occurred since the Kenya Defence Forces had joined the African Union Military Observer Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). His Government was continuing to strengthen existing counter-terrorism structures, as well as border and airport security, and was working with the ACSRT, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the East African Community (EAC). Kenya was also a member of the Eastern and Southern African Anti-money-laundering Group (ESAAMLG). Through those bodies, his Government had established procedures for gathering, processing and disseminating information, built early-warning and response capacity and conducted joint studies on strategies for

suppressing the financing of terrorism. The United Nations system had a crucial role to play in coordinating implementation of the Global Strategy.

38. **Ms. Diaz Mendoza** (Venezuela) said that counter-terrorism was the responsibility of all States and should take place within a framework of multilateralism and international cooperation and with respect for the principles and norms of international law, including human rights and international humanitarian law, as well as the relevant protocols and agreements. Counter-terrorism efforts should also respect the principles of self-determination of peoples, sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and peaceful coexistence, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. Efforts to combat terrorism would not be effective unless measures were taken to address the factors that fuelled it, including poverty, injustice, social and economic inequality, political, racial, religious and cultural intolerance, infringement of human rights, foreign occupation and violation of the sovereignty of peoples and nations.

39. Her Government was a party to the principal counter-terrorism instruments and complied fully with its obligations thereunder. It had also carried out legislative reforms with a view to ensuring the effectiveness of its counter-terrorism efforts.

40. As a strong advocate of the principle of sovereignty, her Government would never allow its territory to be used by or give financial support to terrorists or terrorist groups, nor would it support actions that incited violence or disturbance of the social peace and constitutional order. Member States should condemn such interference in order to achieve a peaceful world full of tolerance, respect and solidarity.

41. The United Nations should encourage cooperation among States to ensure the administration of justice and the conviction of those responsible for terrorist actions, whether individuals, groups or States. The definition of the term "terrorism" should be compatible with the right of peoples to struggle against foreign occupation and domination and with the promotion and protection of international peace and security. It was important for States to arrive at a consensus with regard to a comprehensive convention on international terrorism that would enable them to combat all forms of terrorism effectively and in full compliance with international law.

42. State terrorism violated the sovereignty of nations, as well as the norms and rules that governed armed conflict and protected civilians and prisoners of war. It constituted a rejection of the peaceful settlement of disputes, as established by the Charter of the United Nations, and a blatant denial of the rule of law and human rights. State terrorism could not be justified under pretexts such as improper application of the right of self-defence under Article 51 of the Charter or inappropriate enforcement of Security Council resolutions under the guise of “protecting civilians”.

43. Under the relevant international laws, States were required to ensure that the perpetrators of acts of terrorism did not enjoy impunity. Therefore, her Government once again demanded that the United States of America should extradite to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela the terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, who was responsible for the 1976 in-flight bombing of a Cubana de Aviación aircraft that had killed the 73 people on board. It also called for the release of the five Cuban counter-terrorism heroes who were imprisoned in United States jails.

44. **Mr. Al-Adhami** (Iraq) said that his delegation reaffirmed its strong condemnation of terrorism, including State terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations and considered it unjustifiable under any circumstances, whatever its causes, motives or purposes. In addition to violating human rights and threatening international peace and security, it hindered cultural, social and economic development. Iraq had always supported regional and international measures to eradicate terrorism and punish its perpetrators or extradite them in accordance with the relevant treaties. Accordingly, it had ratified and acceded to the 1998 Arab Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism and the 1999 Convention of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on Combating International Terrorism.

45. Iraqis and Iraqi institutions, both religious and civil, had been and were still the target of terrorist operations; consequently, Iraqis were well aware of the gravity of terrorism and convinced of the need to combat and suppress it. The United Nations had studied the phenomenon and the means of eradicating it, especially in the context of the international counter-terrorism conventions. Yet, despite those efforts, brutal acts of terrorism continued. Repressive measures were clearly not enough; it was also essential

to consider the underlying causes underlying those acts: poverty, unemployment, violations of human rights, contempt for other religions and provocation of their adherents, foreign occupation and the application of double standards in dealing with international issues. Unless those causes were properly addressed, terrorist acts would no doubt continue in the future.

46. More importantly, any measures to suppress terrorism that were taken outside the framework of international law, including human rights and international humanitarian law, could only raise doubts about belief in the values purportedly defended in the effort to suppress it.

47. **Mr. Osman** (Sudan) said that his delegation reaffirmed its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, regardless of its source or motives and whatever excuses might be offered. His Government renewed its commitment to working in earnest at the national level and cooperating fully at the regional and international levels in the field of counter-terrorism.

48. Continued acts of terrorism throughout the world showed that terrorism had no religion, nation, colour or nationality and that greater effort to eradicate it was needed. Genuine cooperation and implementation of the international counter-terrorism instruments would bring progress but were incompatible with an approach based on military and security operations or “fighting terrorism with terrorism”. His delegation reaffirmed its belief that the United Nations had a fundamental leadership role in coordinating international counter-terrorism efforts and its support for implementation of the Global Strategy.

49. The Sudan had ratified all the international counter-terrorism instruments, was a party to the related regional conventions and participated in the counter-terrorism efforts of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). It had made the Global Strategy a general framework for intensifying its national counter-terrorism efforts and, pursuant thereto, had adopted the 2001 Counter-Terrorism Act, which criminalized all terrorist acts and incitement to commit them. It had also adopted numerous related laws, such as the 2010 Money-Laundering and Financing of Terrorism Act, in keeping with international and regional requirements and in accordance with Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). It had submitted periodic reports on the implementation of that resolution, most recently in 2009, and remained



committed to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1624 (2005). Draft legislation on matters such as nuclear energy and computer-related crimes was under consideration. In addition, the Sudan cooperated with IGAD sister countries on implementation of the IGAD Security Sector Programme, which dealt with numerous security issues in the region and called for the establishment of a regional counter-terrorism centre and related specialist training.

50. The need for a clear, pragmatic definition of terrorism remained an important outstanding issue. In that regard, it was important to distinguish between terrorism and legitimate resistance against foreign occupation and to condemn the terrorist conduct of occupying States. His delegation also called for the provision of assistance to the victims of terrorism. The concept of terrorism must not be linked with Islam and Muslims or with any other religion, culture or ethnic group. His delegation welcomed the call for the holding of an international conference on counter-terrorism under United Nations auspices to define terrorism and coordinate international action to combat it, taking into account regional efforts within the framework of the African Union and the League of Arab States, the final document adopted by the Sixteenth Ministerial Conference and Commemorative Meeting of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (A/65/896-S/2011/407, annex I) and the efforts of the OIC.

51. The phenomenon of terrorism must be viewed not only as such, but also through its root causes in the context of international justice, avoiding double standards and selectivity in international relations and interference in the affairs of others, ending conflicts, helping to alleviate poverty and its consequences, ending all forms of foreign occupation and respecting the right of peoples to self-determination without equating resistance to foreign occupation with terrorist acts.

52. His delegation welcomed the establishment and functioning of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and reiterated its expression of appreciation to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abd al-Aziz of Saudi Arabia, who had launched the initiative in cooperation with the United Nations. It called for countering terrorism with greater international cooperation, dialogue and efforts to inculcate the notions of justice, freedom, human rights

and respect for the law and for equality. It urged individual States to refrain from levelling accusations of terrorism against specific States and placing them on lists of so-called "State sponsors of terrorism", especially where there were no reasonable or objective grounds for doing so and where those lists did not match reality. In that context, he reaffirmed his Government's readiness to continue to cooperate with all States bilaterally, regionally and internationally with a view to eliminating terrorism.

53. **Mr. Otsuka** (Japan) said that, notwithstanding the remarkable results achieved in the international counter-terrorism effort, greater effort was required. His delegation accordingly welcomed the third review of the Global Strategy and efforts to promote better coordination among the relevant United Nations entities, possibly through the appointment of a United Nations Counter-Terrorism Coordinator as recommended by the Secretary-General. Care must be taken, however, to avoid duplication and remain within existing resources. It was also important to strengthen the relevant legal framework, in particular through the speedy adoption of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

54. **Mr. Waheed** (Maldives) said that terrorism could never be condoned but that, just as no one nation could be blamed for it, so no country could combat it alone; a coordinated global approach was needed. He welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/67/162 and Add.1) and called for full implementation of the Global Strategy. His delegation supported the establishment of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and thanked CTITF for its continued engagement with the Maldives.

55. While his Government was committed to freedom of expression, such freedom could not be used to insult religions, incite hatred and provoke communal violence. His delegation therefore condemned both the recent malicious video demeaning the Prophet Mohammed and the worldwide outburst of violence in the name of religion; terrorism could not be condoned under any circumstances.

56. The only way forward lay in a renewed focus on the counter-terrorism instruments and in implementation of the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. The Maldives was a party to eight of those instruments and was considering

accession to the remainder of them. Its Constitution met the international standard for human rights safeguards and its Anti-Terrorism Act had been enacted in 1990. His delegation attached great importance to the adoption of a single comprehensive convention; the goal should be to encompass all the existing instruments and offer improved protection for future generations. The Maldives also believed in regional preventive and capacity-building measures and was a party to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism and the Additional Protocol thereto.

57. As an island State in the Indian Ocean, his country had recently experienced an upsurge in maritime piracy. Its region was also home to organized crime rings that funded and facilitated the commission of terrorist acts and posed a threat to the global economy. He therefore welcomed the decision, adopted at the seventeenth SAARC Summit in November 2011, to initiate measures to combat it in South Asia. The Maldives was an inherently peaceful nation and its people were aware that ideologies could cultivate hate and breed violence and extremism. However legitimate the grievance, the use of violence on political, religious or other ideological grounds should be defined as terrorism, which could be defeated only through partnerships and collective understanding.

58. Piracy, like other forms of terrorism, was rooted in economic disparity and exclusion and must be combated through development since destitute segments of the population were vulnerable to radicalization. His Government was incorporating civic education into the school curriculum in order to teach young people that rights went hand in hand with responsibilities and, by promoting the rule of law and protecting human dignity, was maintaining its commitment to building institutions, civil society and individual empowerment.

59. **Ms. Schonmann** (Israel) drew attention to the particular challenge of suicide terrorism, which was, without exception, unjustifiable, unlawful and immoral but was difficult to combat because imprisonment and death were motivations rather than deterrents. As a country whose citizens had long been the targets of terrorist attacks, both at home and abroad, Israel welcomed the third review of the Global Strategy and the concern shown for victims. There was considerable disagreement regarding the definition of terrorism.

While it might be convenient to suggest that “one man’s terrorist was another man’s freedom fighter”, such an approach could not be reconciled with the need to condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of motivation. Equally troubling were attempts to humanize terrorism by differentiating between “good” and “bad” terrorism and associating it with glorification and martyrdom. And while it might be convenient for some to condemn terrorism in their own backyard while condoning attacks carried out elsewhere, such duplicity could not be reconciled with a genuine intent to counter terrorism. International terrorism was a business and required a steady flow of funds; indeed, as recognized by the Security Council, it depended on State sponsors. Zero tolerance was the only viable option.

60. Education had a key role to play in countering terrorism, which thrived on a culture of incitement, indoctrination, intolerance and glorification of death, by combating radicalization and fostering a culture of peace; international law was also crucial in that regard. Israel was a party to the core international counter-terrorism instruments and had provided technical cooperation and shared its best practices and expertise with a view to their implementation, both bilaterally and through various United Nations agencies. Her delegation supported the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism that would underscore the fundamental conviction that no cause or grievance justified terrorism in any form or manifestation rather than trading principle for the illusion of consensus and condoning terrorist acts under the veil of martyrdom or liberation. That instrument should, however, not apply to State military action, which was already governed by entirely different international legal regimes.

61. Lastly, it was unfortunate that the delegations of States that were among the worst human rights violators in her region continued to exploit the important debate under the current agenda item in a cynical attempt to divert attention from their own abuses; it was no coincidence that they could not even bring themselves to condemn murderous terrorist attacks that had claimed the lives of so many Israelis. Saudi Arabia brutally repressed its lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community, discriminated against women and made homosexual conduct punishable by flogging, stoning, imprisonment or death. The Syrian Arab Republic, for its part, was a

prime sanctuary for some of the most notorious terrorist organizations, such as Hezbollah and Hamas, and allowed them to maintain their headquarters in Damascus; its regime had murdered tens of thousands of its own citizens in the past year alone. It was therefore astounding that the delegations of those States should dare to lecture Israel about human rights.

62. **Ms. Akilu** (Nigeria) said that the militant group, Boko Haram, had posed a particular threat to her country over the past two years and there was evidence that it was forming links with other terrorist groups in the Sahel region. Her Government believed that the problem called for a comprehensive, multifaceted and sustainable response at the local, regional and global levels and had been shaping its counter-terrorism campaign accordingly. It had enacted laws to prevent terrorism and prohibit money-laundering in 2011 and was reviewing their provisions in order to incorporate global best practices; a draft amendment to the Nigerian Terrorism (Prevention) Act, once adopted, would expand the definition of terrorism, strengthen sanctions and allow the courts to act more expeditiously in terrorism-related cases.

63. Her Government had also set up a number of institutional mechanisms to counter terrorism and related activities and was developing a national counter-terrorism strategy. Nigeria was a party to a number of regional treaties and bilateral and multilateral agreements aimed at enhancing regional cooperation in the investigation, prosecution and extradition of suspected terrorists and in January 2013, his Government would host a CTITF regional workshop on implementation of the Global Strategy in West Africa and the Sahel region. The maintenance and, indeed, strengthening of international cooperation would be the overarching challenge in the coming years and would depend on the development and implementation of effective multilateral, regional and national strategies and programmes.

64. **Mr. Kim Saeng** (Republic of Korea) expressed his delegation's solidarity with the victims of terrorism and condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, whatever the cause. Strengthening cooperation was the key to success in implementing the Global Strategy; his Government had hosted the 30 June 2011 Plenary Meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, held in Taejeon, and the 26 and 27 March 2012 Nuclear Security summit, held in Seoul.

65. The General Assembly should make every effort to reach agreement on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism without further delay. His Government's immigration and law enforcement agencies were effective in tracking suspicious individuals and thwarting potential terrorist acts. It had strengthened its emergency response plan and tightened its legislative framework and procedures for combating the financing of terrorism in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions. However, despite the enhanced cooperation of the international community in combating terrorism, long-term success could be achieved only through capacity-building for law enforcement agencies in developing countries. His Government had been offering training courses in such areas as cybercrime, forensic investigation and crime prevention.

66. Lastly, the allegation by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that his country had been involved in a terrorist attack on the statue of one of its leaders was baseless, but that very country had committed military provocation, sabotage and many terrorist attacks against citizens of the Republic of Korea, including the 29 November 1987 bombing of Korean Air Flight 858 and the 9 October 1983 Rangoon bombing, which had claimed the lives of 155 and 21 people, respectively.

67. **Mr. Al Habib** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that as a victim of terrorism, including State-sponsored terrorism, his country fully understood the untold consequences of such acts for the victims and for society. State terrorism hindered the scientific and technological development of developing countries by destroying their elite human resources. In recent years, professional scientists in Iran had been the targets of such attacks, which had received little attention from those who should have taken measures to eliminate international terrorism. Such examples showed that the main challenge in countering terrorism was the use of double standards that labelled acts of terrorism as good or bad in accordance with narrow political interests, potentially undermining international trust and cooperation. A functional or selective approach to countering terrorism was simply unacceptable; he cited the preferential treatment given to some terrorist groups, as evidenced in the recent removal from the Al-Qaida Sanctions List of a terrorist group that had killed and injured thousands of Iranians.

68. Many root causes, including unlawful use of force by States, foreign aggression and occupation and foreign interference in the domestic affairs of States, could help to explain the spread of terrorism; moreover, the disproportionate use of military force to counter it had proved more harmful to the innocent than to terrorists and had prepared the ground for vicious cycles of renewed violence. Such was the case in some of Iran's neighbours, where the resulting suffering of innocent people could not be glossed over as unfortunate "collateral damage".

69. Terrorism should not be equated with the legitimate liberation struggles of peoples under foreign domination or occupation; it should be countered only in full conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including international human rights and humanitarian law. Attempts to attribute the phenomenon to a particular culture, religion or nationality were deplorable and merely gave leeway to terrorists. His delegation welcomed all initiatives designed to promote dialogue among civilizations, cultures and religions.

70. **Mr. Benmehidi** (Algeria) said that his country continued to condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including all acts that served directly or indirectly to encourage or strengthen it, and reaffirmed its firm condemnation of any attempt to attribute it to a particular religion, culture, civilization or group or to equate it with the legitimate struggle of peoples to liberate themselves from colonialism or foreign occupation.

71. For years, the Sahel region had been the target of terrorist activity under the banner of Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and the Governments of the countries concerned had cooperated in an effort to address jointly the issues of security and development; a high-level conference on the subject had been held in Algiers on 7 and 8 September 2011. The more recent Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) was responsible for an upsurge in transnational organized crime and trafficking in drugs and weapons, following the conflict in Libya, which threatened the very foundations of certain States in the region. His delegation therefore welcomed the adoption of the Global Strategy, which was intended to help those countries to combat the scourge of terrorism.

72. His Government was contributing to counter-terrorism efforts throughout the African

continent, in particular the initiative of the Algiers-based ACSRT aimed at developing a draft African model law on counter-terrorism. It had ratified the 13 international counter-terrorism instruments and was working to eliminate the sources of the financing of terrorism, particularly in the Sahel region, and the taking of hostages for the purpose of exacting political concessions, such as the release of terrorists. It was actively supporting efforts to combat cyberterrorism and the use of the Internet by terrorist groups to disseminate their ideas and attract recruits.

73. His delegation attached special importance to finalization of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and urged Member States to seek compromise on that instrument, which would give fresh impetus to the collective counter-terrorism effort. The future convention should be fully consonant with the established principles of international law and should include an agreed definition of terrorism. His delegation welcomed the third review of the Global Strategy, the proposed appointment of a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator, the establishment of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, the training programmes offered in his country by UNODC and the consultations between his Government and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), including its Ombudsperson. Algeria's involvement with the Global Counterterrorism Forum, including by hosting a November 2011 coordination meeting in Algiers, was further proof of its commitment to global counter-terrorism cooperation.

74. **Ms. Traoré Bazie** (Burkina Faso) said that international terrorism was of major concern to the international community in view of its negative impact on international peace and security, individual freedoms and human rights. Her delegation therefore welcomed the adoption by the United Nations of a number of related resolutions and international instruments and its holding of a number of high-level meetings, most recently the Secretary-General's High-level Meeting on Nuclear Terrorism, held in New York on 28 September 2012. It was more necessary than ever to finalize the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism in order to give added strength to the other instruments already in force. However, while international cooperation was essential in combating terrorism, States also bore individual responsibility for eradicating it.

75. Burkina Faso had ratified nearly all of the relevant international instruments, and countering international terrorism was a high priority of her Government's foreign policy owing to the resurgence of violence and extremism at the global and regional levels. The Government regularly adopted domestic measures to give effect to the resolutions of the Security Council. In 2007, it had established the National Financial Information Processing Unit (CENTIF), which was instrumental in combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism; it had put in place counter-terrorism mechanisms and laws; it collaborated closely with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) (the Counter-Terrorism Committee); and it had undertaken to establish a national counter-terrorism committee. However, despite its firm resolve, her Government lacked the means to combat effectively the increasingly sophisticated technology employed by terrorists. She therefore called for greater international cooperation in providing capacity-building and equipment to developing countries.

76. **Mr. Ruru** (Indonesia) said that no country could defeat terrorism alone. Having suffered from the devastating effects of terrorist attacks, Indonesia was aware that strong partnerships between nations were of paramount importance in that struggle, which should be complemented by the implementation of existing international instruments within the framework of the Global Strategy. His delegation welcomed the third review of the Strategy and encouraged Member States to ensure its full implementation and to become parties to all the international counter-terrorism instruments. On 6 and 7 March 2012, his Government had hosted the inaugural meeting of the South East Asia Working Group of the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum, attended by 85 representatives of 30 countries, at which the participants had discussed the issues of interrogation, deradicalization, and law enforcement and judicial cooperation. His delegation also welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, which had a valuable role to play in promoting capacity-building and international cooperation and was supported by Indonesia at the regional and multilateral levels.

77. His Government would also continue to contribute to the strengthening of law enforcement in the region, including through the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation, established in 2004 in a

joint effort with Australia, which had trained over 11,000 officials from 52 countries in the region. Since 2003, the Indonesian authorities had arrested and prosecuted over 600 terrorists, of whom 400 had been convicted. In 2010, the Government had established the National Counter-Terrorism Agency, which played a leading role in its efforts to bring suspected terrorists to trial while also addressing social issues, including the promotion of interfaith dialogue in order to empower moderates.

78. Lastly, terrorism should not be associated with any religion, culture or group and no religion or religious doctrine should be portrayed as inspiring it. The international community should work together to prevent such profiling and should foster a more tolerant approach through dialogue, consultation and cooperation.

79. **Mr. Adi** (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of Israel had given a skewed description of her Government's policies in a desperate attempt to disguise the fact that her own country was a terrorist State. Israel was an entity that had been established by dispossessing the original inhabitants of the land and replacing them by settlers; it had introduced the world to the worst form of terrorism by hijacking airlines, killing international envoys and conducting terrorist operations abroad, even among its own allies. Israel must cease its unlawful occupation of and acts of terrorism against the occupied Syrian Golan and end the suffering of the hundreds of thousands of Syrians who had been displaced over 40 years ago.

80. **Mr. Al Ahmad** (Saudi Arabia), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of Israel had impugned his country's human rights record even though the discussion of such matters lay within the mandate not of the Sixth Committee, but of the Third. Moreover, Israel itself was guilty of systematic, continuing State terrorism, imprisoning Palestinians and occupying and destroying their land by adopting policies of displacement and settlement. United Nations resolutions distinguished between terrorism and armed struggle against foreign occupation, which was legitimate because the right to self-determination was established in the Charter of the United Nations and in international law.

81. **Ms. Schonmann** (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that it was extraordinary to hear

the representative of Syria accuse another country of human rights violations at a time when his own Government was continuing to slaughter and brutally repress its own people. His remarks were an insult to the countless victims of the brutal regime that he represented; she wondered whether he would put forward the same argument of self-determination and freedom from internal repression with regard to his own citizens, whose communities were being crushed by Government tanks. His desperate words said nothing about Israel but gave the Committee insight into the motivations of a State sponsor of terrorism. The present forum should not be used as an instrument of political warfare but should remain a dignified environment for the exchange of legal views.

82. **Mr. Adi** (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that, despite the attempt by the representative of Israel to distract the Committee's attention from the crimes committed by her country, the United Nations had adopted hundreds of resolutions denouncing Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands as one of the worst forms of aggression and the Organization's archives were full of proof of Israeli terrorism.

83. **Mr. Kim Yong Song** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the allegations made by the representative of the Republic of Korea were groundless and that his Government had consistently opposed all forms of terrorism. Moreover, as reported in the press, the perpetrators of the attack on the statues of leaders of the Republic of Korea, a typical and dangerous terrorist act, had recently made a public confession of their crimes.

84. **Mr. Kim Saeng** (Republic of Korea), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea continued to perpetrate terrorist attacks against his country; in 2010 alone, it

had torpedoed one of his country's naval ships and shelled the innocent people of its peaceful islands.

85. **Mr. Pham Quang Hieu** (Viet Nam), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), supported by **Mr. Salem** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, and **Mr. Al Habib** (Iran), speaking on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, said that, in accordance with paragraph 1 (b) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 65/276, the European Union should, as a non-State entity, take the floor after the regional groups; moreover, it should speak after individual States unless it was itself represented by a State. The order of speakers followed during the Committee's consideration of the present agenda item should not set a precedent for future meetings.

86. **Mr. Marhic** (European Union) said that, while he took note of the statements made on behalf of the three regional groups, resolution 65/276 was quite clear and its provisions had been further explained in a note by the Secretary-General and a letter from the former President of the General Assembly. His delegation was prepared, however, to take a constructive approach on the matter and he was confident that the Chair and the Secretariat would find practical solutions in order to allow the Committee to concentrate on substantive discussions.

87. **The Chair** reminded the Committee that it had unanimously agreed to proceed in accordance with the procedure previously followed on the basis of paragraph 1 (a) of the aforementioned resolution, whereby the European Union would be allowed to be inscribed among the major groups on the list of speakers.

*The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.*