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## Sixth Committee

### Summary record of the 2nd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 7 October 2013, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Kohona. . . . . (Sri Lanka)

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

**Organization of work** (A/C.6/68/1; A/C.6/68/L.1)

1. **The Chair** drew attention to the allocation of agenda items to the Committee, as contained in document A/C.6/68/1, and to the note by the Secretariat entitled “Organization of work” (A/C.6/68/L.1), in particular paragraphs 7 to 9 concerning the establishment of working groups.

2. With regard to agenda item 77, “Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts”, it was his understanding that, in accordance with the decision by the General Assembly, the Committee wished to establish a working group, to be chaired by a person as yet undetermined, in order to further examine, with a view to taking a decision, the question of a convention on responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts or other appropriate action on the basis of the articles, and that the working group would be open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

3. *It was so decided.*

4. **The Chair**, referring to agenda item 82, “Diplomatic protection”, said it was his understanding that, in accordance with the decision by the General Assembly, the Committee wished to establish a working group, to be chaired by a person as yet undetermined, in order to further examine, in the light of the written comments of Governments, as well as views expressed in the debates held at the sixty-second and sixty-fifth sessions of the General Assembly, the question of a convention on diplomatic protection, or any other appropriate action, on the basis of the articles drafted by the International Law Commission on diplomatic protection, and to identify any difference of opinion on the articles, and that the working group would be open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of IAEA.

5. *It was so decided.*

6. **The Chair**, referring to agenda item 86, “The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction”, said it was his understanding that, in accordance with the decision by the General Assembly, the Committee wished to establish a working group, to be chaired by Mr. Ulibarri (Costa Rica), to continue its

consideration of the item, taking into account the informal paper of the Working Group at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly (A/C.6/66/WG.3/1), and that the working group would be open to all States Members of the United Nations and relevant observers to the General Assembly.

7. *It was so decided.*

8. **The Chair**, referring to agenda item 110, “Measures to eliminate international terrorism”, said it was his understanding that the Committee did not wish to establish, at the current session, a working group with a view to finalizing the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and continuing to discuss the item included in its agenda by General Assembly resolution 54/110 concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations, in view of the fact that the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996, at the conclusion of its session in April 2013, had noted that more time would be required to achieve substantive progress on the outstanding issues and had recommended the establishment of such a working group at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

9. *It was so decided.*

10. **The Chair** drew attention to the proposed timetable for the Committee’s work, contained in paragraphs 4 to 6 of the note by the Secretariat entitled “Organization of work” (A/C.6/68/L.1). He took it that, as requested by the International Law Commission in paragraph 200 of its report on the work of its sixty-fifth session (A/68/10), the Committee wished to invite Mr. Alain Pellet, who had served as Special Rapporteur for the topic “Reservations to treaties”, to attend the Committee’s debate on the relevant chapter of the report of the Commission on the work of its sixty-third session (A/66/10 and Add.1), which had been postponed to the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

11. *It was so decided.*

12. **The Chair** said that, in accordance with established practice, the proposed work programme would be applied with flexibility in light of the progress made by the Committee, which would take action on draft resolutions as soon as they were ready for adoption. The Committee must allow sufficient

time for preparation and consideration of the estimates of expenditure arising from draft resolutions. Since it was scheduled to conclude its work on 15 November 2013, all draft resolutions with financial implications must be submitted to the Fifth Committee by 1 November 2013, except for those relating to agenda items scheduled to be considered after that date. He took it that the Committee wished to proceed accordingly.

13. *It was so decided.*

14. **The Chair** stressed that the Committee was required to make full use of conference resources and facilities. Although it had shown improvement in that regard over the past three sessions, during the most recent session it had lost some 16 hours because of meetings starting late or ending early.

15. He took it that the Committee wished, as in the past, to follow the practice of the General Assembly in giving precedence on the list of speakers to representatives of regional groups or other groups of States.

16. *It was so decided.*

17. **The Chair** drew attention to paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution [59/313](#), which invited Member States that were aligned with statements already made by the chair of a group of Member States, where possible, to focus additional interventions made in their national capacity on points that had not already been adequately addressed in the statements of the group in question, bearing in mind the sovereign right of each Member State to express its national position.

18. Following the Committee's participation in the trial implementation of the new Integrated Sustainable PaperSmart Services (PaperSmart) meetings arrangement at the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the PaperSmart portal would again be available at the current session.

**Agenda item 110: Measures to eliminate international terrorism** ([A/68/37](#) and [A/68/180](#))

19. **Ms. Rodríguez Pineda** (Guatemala), speaking on behalf of the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution [51/210](#), and introducing the report of the Ad Hoc Committee ([A/68/37](#)), said that, at its sixteenth session, the Ad Hoc Committee had held two plenary meetings, on 8 and 12 April 2013, as well as a round of informal

consultations and other informal contacts on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Informal consultations had also taken place on the question of convening a high-level conference under United Nations auspices to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

20. While chapters I and II of the report provided factual and technical information and a description of proceedings, respectively, in chapter III the Ad Hoc Committee, noting that more time would be required to achieve substantive progress on the outstanding issues, had recommended that the Sixth Committee, at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, should establish a working group with a view to finalizing the process on the draft comprehensive convention as well as discussions concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations. Annex I to the report reproduced the Preamble and articles 1, 2 and 4-27 of the draft comprehensive convention prepared by the Bureau, representing the stage of consideration reached during the Ad Hoc Committee's sixteenth session; annex II contained written proposals in relation to the outstanding issues; and annex III contained an informal summary on the exchange of views during the session.

21. The session had been an opportunity for delegations to renew their commitment to reaching agreement on the outstanding issues concerning the draft convention and the high-level conference. While further progress had not been achieved during the session and a number of delegations had expressed disappointment at the failure to resolve outstanding issues, it was important to acknowledge the advances that had been made. The report conveyed, in one comprehensive document, the stage of consideration reached to date on the draft comprehensive convention and therefore represented an important reference for future deliberations. Furthermore, delegations continued to view the elements of a package proposal put forward in 2007 as a viable option for reaching consensus on the draft convention, and repeated their willingness to work on the basis of that proposal in an attempt to solve the impasse. Member States should therefore put aside their disappointment and summon the necessary political will to overcome the obstacles to the conclusion of a draft comprehensive convention, which would strengthen the existing multilateral legal framework for combating international terrorism.

22. **The Chair** said that the need for substantive progress on the outstanding issues surrounding the draft comprehensive convention could not be more pressing. He urged delegations to engage in discussions at the current session that would allow a positive outcome to be reached at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

23. **Mr. Gharibi** (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, said that the Movement unequivocally condemned the crime of terrorism and rejected it in all its forms and manifestations, including acts in which States were directly or indirectly implicated. Terrorism was a flagrant violation of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, in particular the right to life. It should not be equated with the legitimate struggle of peoples to achieve self-determination and national liberation, nor should it be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group, and any such association should not be used to justify measures such as profiling and breaches of privacy. The brutalization of peoples under foreign occupation must be denounced as the worst form of terrorism, and the use of State power to prevent peoples struggling against such occupation from exercising their inalienable right to self-determination should be condemned. The Movement rejected actions, measures and the use or threat of use of force directed against its members by another State under the pretext of combating terrorism or in pursuit of political aims, including by categorizing them directly or indirectly as sponsors of terrorism, as well as the unilateral elaboration of lists that accused States of supporting terrorism, which were inconsistent with international law.

24. States should honour their obligation under international law and international humanitarian law to combat terrorism by prosecuting or extraditing the perpetrators and preventing them from organizing, instigating or financing terrorist acts against other States from within or outside their territory. They should refrain from organizing, instigating, abetting, financing or participating in such acts in the territory of other States; encouraging activities within their territory directed towards the commission of such acts; allowing their territory to be used for the planning, training or financing of such acts; and supplying weapons or arms which could be used for that purpose. They should also refuse to provide political,

diplomatic, moral or material support for terrorism and should ensure that the perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of terrorist acts did not abuse refugee or any other legal status. All States that had not yet done so should consider becoming parties to the international instruments on combating terrorism.

25. All States should respect human rights and fundamental freedoms in countering terrorism, in accordance with the rule of law and their obligations under international law. The Movement called on the Security Council sanctions committees to further streamline their listing and delisting procedures in order to ensure due process and transparency. It also reiterated its call for a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response to terrorism and to identify its root causes. The draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism should be finalized and, to that end, States should cooperate in resolving the outstanding issues.

26. The Movement reaffirmed its support for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and would actively participate in negotiations for the fourth review of that Strategy in 2014. It encouraged all Member States to collaborate with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and to contribute to the implementation of its activities in accordance with the Global Strategy. It strongly condemned the practice of hostage-taking for the purpose of demanding ransom or gaining political concessions.

27. **Mr. Salem** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), said that OIC condemned all acts and practices of terrorism and remained convinced that terrorism, regardless of its motivation, objectives, forms and manifestations, committed by whomsoever and wherever, could never be justified. Terrorism should not be associated with any religion, race, faith, theology, values, culture, society or group and no religion or religious doctrine should be portrayed as encouraging or inspiring acts of terrorism. In an increasingly globalized world, there was a growing need to build bridges among cultures and peoples.

28. OIC remained committed to strengthening mutual cooperation as part of a coordinated international effort to combat terrorism. In that connection, it supported a comprehensive strategy that addressed the root causes of terrorism, including unlawful use of force,

aggression, foreign occupation, festering international disputes, denial of the right of peoples living under foreign occupation to self-determination, political and economic injustices, and political marginalization and alienation. A clear distinction must be made between terrorism and exercise of the legitimate right of peoples to resist foreign occupation as established in international law, international humanitarian law, Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 46/51. The Organization looked forward to the fourth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which, as an ongoing effort and a living document, should be updated and examined on a regular basis, as well as implemented fully and in a balanced manner. Member States should work collectively to ban the payment of ransom claimed by terrorist groups, which was one of the main sources of terrorist financing.

29. OIC was deeply concerned at the intensification of violent provocation, incitement and terrorism against Palestinian civilians and their property, including damage to homes and agricultural land, as well as the desecration of cemeteries, mosques and churches.

30. OIC remained committed to negotiations on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and underscored the need for progress. It reiterated its previous proposal on the scope of the instrument and was willing to continue considering the Coordinator's latest proposal. It would make a determined effort to ensure that consensus was reached and that all outstanding issues — including those related to the legal definition of terrorism, and particularly the distinction between terrorism and the struggle for the right to self-determination by people under foreign occupation and colonial or alien domination, and to the scope of the acts covered by the draft convention — were resolved. A high-level conference should be convened under United Nations auspices in order to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and to elaborate a common definition of terrorism.

31. All Member States were encouraged to collaborate with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and to contribute to the implementation of its activities in accordance with the Global Strategy. OIC welcomed the recent contribution of US\$ 100 million announced by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques,

King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia, to support and strengthen the Centre's capacity-building functions.

32. **Ms. Carayanides** (Australia), speaking on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand (CANZ), said terrorism was a long-term global challenge that demanded a consistent, comprehensive and coordinated international response based on common goals, values and institutions. Recent attacks underlined the serious threat posed by terrorists to public safety and security in countries in Africa, the Middle East, South and South-East Asia, and elsewhere. In particular, the CANZ group offered its condolences to the Governments of Kenya, Pakistan and all other nations that had suffered losses in September's senseless and reprehensible attacks in Nairobi and Peshawar.

33. The three delegations continued to support the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which would give further concrete expression to the global commitment to combat terrorism and enhance international cooperation in preventing and investigating terrorist crimes, as well as in prosecuting and extraditing those who committed them, and they urged Member States to redouble their efforts to resolve the outstanding issues. They appreciated the information provided in the report of the Secretary-General on measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/68/180) and, in particular, noted with thanks the work of international organizations in providing counter-terrorism workshops and training courses.

34. Their Governments were concerned that the subversive reach of terrorism was impacting communities and radicalizing youth. It was now possible to locate and distribute violent, extremist material via the Internet largely without detection by law enforcement and intelligence authorities. Radicalized individuals and groups could then carry out terrorist attacks with little preparation or training. Even failed attacks might be considered successful owing to the disruption, fear and uncertainty generated. Some persons were also travelling to conflict zones in order to train and fight and were returning as radicalized individuals who might plan and conduct terrorist acts. International cooperation was needed to respond effectively to the closely linked issues of violent extremism and foreign fighters.

35. The international community's success in cutting off other sources of terrorist financing had led to rapid growth in kidnap for ransom and hostage-taking as financing and negotiating strategies for terrorist groups. The Governments of the CANZ countries maintained a strict policy of not paying ransom, in order to avoid encouraging more kidnappings or financing criminal activity, terrorist acts and armed conflict. They were committed to working closely with the international community to prevent the proliferation of kidnap for ransom and bring those responsible to justice.

36. The three Governments were committed to integrated, comprehensive cooperation within the international community in order to combat the evolving terrorist threat. Counter-terrorism efforts must simultaneously address humanitarian, development and security needs. Democratic institutions, security sector reform, respect for human rights and the rule of law, and social and economic development were important factors in preventing and countering conflict and terrorism.

37. The growing cooperation between regional organizations and the United Nations system should be further developed. The three delegations also encouraged close cooperation and dialogue between the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) (the "Counter-Terrorism Committee"), the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and related international entities. Their Governments supported the work of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, particularly its focus on strategies to counter violent extremism and its collaboration with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute on the management of terrorist detainees in prisons.

38. The Governments of the CANZ countries provided capacity-building assistance, including in the areas of intelligence and law enforcement, to partners in South Asia, South-East Asia, the Sahel and elsewhere. They recognized the importance of assisting countries with programmes to counter violent extremism, aimed at addressing the conditions that gave rise to terrorism and empowering civic actors and communities to challenge the terrorist narrative, as well as working to combat violent extremism at home.

39. **Mr. León González** (Cuba), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that terrorism continued to pose a serious threat to the stability of individual States, entire regions and the international community as a whole, causing physical and psychological injuries and creating a deep sense of insecurity and distress among its victims. CELAC reaffirmed its commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations in strict conformity with international law, international human rights standards and international humanitarian law. All acts of terrorism must be unequivocally and firmly condemned by the international community and their perpetrators must be brought to justice without exception. All measures taken to combat such acts must comply with international law, in particular human rights, humanitarian and refugee law, and with the Charter of the United Nations and other international norms. Actions taken outside the international legal framework were unjustifiable, illegal and unacceptable. CELAC rejected the unilateral elaboration of blacklists that accused States of supporting and sponsoring terrorism, which were inconsistent with international law.

40. Terrorism could be contained effectively only through enhanced international cooperation with the United Nations at its heart. CELAC firmly supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and underscored the need for ongoing efforts to achieve the comprehensive and balanced implementation of its four pillars. It also stressed the importance of the work of CTITF and of increased cooperation among United Nations entities, as well as the need to promote transparency and avoid duplication in their work. It recognized the efforts of regional and subregional organizations to implement the Global Strategy and called on them to strengthen their cooperation in that regard.

41. CELAC welcomed the reports of the Secretary-General on measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/68/180) and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism (A/68/298). The CELAC countries acknowledged the role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in particular its Terrorism Prevention Branch, in providing counter-terrorism technical assistance and capacity-building, and wished to collaborate with its work. In particular, they welcomed



the policy guide that UNODC had prepared, in coordination with Member States, on good practices to support victims of terrorism, including the role of victims in criminal proceedings.

42. While it was essential to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, including prolonged unresolved conflicts; dehumanization of victims; failure to respect the rule of law; human rights violations; ethnic, national and religious discrimination; political exclusion; socioeconomic marginalization; and bad governance, it should also be recognized that none of those conditions could justify acts of terrorism. In order to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism, Member States should improve cooperation among their financial and police intelligence bodies, and United Nations entities should continue to provide assistance upon request to help them fulfil their international obligations in that regard.

43. CELAC welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 67/99, and the report of the Ad Hoc Committee (A/68/37), which recommended that the Sixth Committee should establish a working group at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly with a view to finalizing the process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism as well as discussions on the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations. CELAC remained committed to working with other Member States to reach an agreement that resolved all outstanding issues preventing the finalization of a comprehensive convention, in particular those related to the legal definition of terrorism and the scope of the acts to be covered by the draft convention. It urged Member States to cooperate and show flexibility in negotiations, and accept that the outcome might not be the best option for some delegations, so that the draft convention could be adopted at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly and a high-level conference could be convened.

44. **Mr. Kommasith** (Lao People's Democratic Republic), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), offered its condolences to the Government and people of Kenya for the recent terrorist attack in Nairobi and condemned that heinous act. ASEAN member States remained deeply concerned about the threat to peace, security and stability posed by international terrorism, which continued to cause the loss of innocent lives,

impede social and economic development and create a climate of fear. ASEAN condemned terrorism in all of its forms and manifestations, as well as all acts, methods and practices of terrorism wherever, by whomever and against whomsoever committed. The perpetrators of such acts must be prosecuted.

45. Combating the global phenomenon of terrorism required a comprehensive and collective response from the international community. ASEAN attached great importance to the efforts made by the United Nations in that regard, in particular through its Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. ASEAN would continue to support the effective, balanced and integrated implementation of the Global Strategy, which promoted cooperation at all levels in the areas of information sharing, exchange of best practices, technical assistance and capacity-building. ASEAN member States stood ready to participate in the fourth biennial review of the Global Strategy, to be conducted by the General Assembly in 2014.

46. ASEAN was grateful to the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) and other United Nations bodies for the assistance they had offered Member States and encouraged them to redouble their efforts to implement their work plans and programmes. In addition, those entities were urged to continue to work in a complementary manner in order to avoid competition and the duplication of work.

47. While a concerted effort was under way to establish the ASEAN Community by 2015, a number of challenges remained in that regard, including development gaps among member States and non-traditional security threats, such as transnational organized crime and terrorist attacks in the region. ASEAN countries remained committed to countering terrorism through coordination and cooperation both within the ASEAN framework and with international partners. All ASEAN member States had ratified the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism, which served as the regional framework on the issue and as a complement to the Global Strategy, international counter-terrorism conventions and the relevant United Nations resolutions. A review of the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter-Terrorism, which sought to address the root causes of terrorism

and enhance cooperation to promote tolerance and understanding, had also been conducted.

48. At the ASEAN Summit, held in April 2013, leaders of ASEAN countries had reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening regional cooperation on combating terrorism and transnational crime. In addition, the Ninth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime, held in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic, from 16 to 19 September 2013, had adopted the 2013-2015 Work Programme of the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime, which constituted an important step towards enhancing efforts to respond to such crimes. Within the framework of the ASEAN Regional Forum, the Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counterterrorism and Transnational Crime had been held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from 4 to 5 March 2013. Participants had shared national counter-terrorism strategies, including efforts to suppress terrorist financing, counter-radicalize terrorists and terrorist suspects and strengthen criminal legislation and justice systems. Meeting participants had also recognized the nexus between terrorism and other transnational crimes, such as migrant smuggling, drug trafficking and money-laundering. Those and other outcomes had been reported at the Twentieth ASEAN Regional Forum, held in Brunei Darussalam on 2 July 2013, where the foreign ministers of ASEAN countries had reaffirmed the importance of information-sharing and cooperation in order to build capacity to address non-traditional security threats.

49. Counter-terrorism issues, including cooperation, had also been discussed at the Seventh ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM-Plus), held in Brunei Darussalam on 7 May 2013, and the Third East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting, held in Brunei Darussalam from 29 to 30 June 2013. An ADMM-Plus counter-terrorism exercise had been conducted in Indonesia in September 2013 to further practical cooperation among militaries in the region. Furthermore, strategies to work with the Russian Federation, an ASEAN dialogue partner, in the counter-terrorism effort had been discussed at the Eleventh Meeting of the ASEAN-Russian Federation Joint Cooperation Committee.

50. Terrorism must not be associated with any religion, race, nationality or ethnicity and counter-terrorism efforts must always respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and international humanitarian

and human rights law. ASEAN countries attached importance to the Committee's deliberations on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which would greatly strengthen the international legal framework, and called on all Member States to address the outstanding issues in a constructive manner.

51. **Mr. Panin** (Russian Federation), speaking on behalf of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), said that the terrorist threat transcended borders and could only be addressed through the comprehensive and integrated efforts of Member States at the international and regional levels. The root causes contributing to the spread of terrorism must be eradicated through preventive measures. The proximity of arsenals, munitions dumps and other potentially environmentally hazardous facilities to residential areas and vital infrastructure made terrorism a matter of concern for countries at all levels of development, including high-income countries. Similarly, as the Internet played an increasingly important role in the security and well-being of States and individuals, cyberterrorism was a growing matter of concern. In that regard, the integrated efforts of the United Nations, regional organizations and Member States were needed in order to improve living conditions, prevent illegal access to weapons and stem the spread of violent propaganda and incitement to terrorism. Cooperation was also needed to enhance security in the tourism sector and in transport; prevent biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism, the financing of terrorism and the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes; and foster public-private partnerships to combat terrorism.

52. Given that the increase in terrorist activities affected the security interests of CSTO member States, the CSTO Council of Collective Security had decided to provide assistance to Tajikistan to strengthen its border with Afghanistan. The experience of CSTO in establishing its Collective Rapid Reaction Force was evidence that global mechanisms could be adapted at the regional level to help combat terrorism. On 11 July 2013, a military tactical training exercise, called Cobalt 2013, had been conducted in Rostov province, Russian Federation, for the special forces from the interior ministries of CSTO member States. The exercise had focused on disarming illegal armed groups and combating the activities of terrorist groups. From 19 to 25 September 2013, the Collective Rapid Reaction Force had also held military drills in Belarus for the



same purpose. The drills had included the use of paratroopers, air forces and artillery.

53. The experiences gained through CSTO operations related to terrorism-related crimes, such as drug trafficking, illegal migration and cybercrimes, could benefit other Member States and international organizations. Recognizing the global scope of the terrorist problem, CSTO stood ready to cooperate with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) (the “Counter-Terrorism Committee”), UNODC, CTITF, regional organizations and Member States.

54. **Mr. Aslov** (Tajikistan), speaking on behalf of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) countries (China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) said that the SCO countries condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of its motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed. Strengthening collective international cooperation mechanisms through multilateral efforts was the only means of effectively counteracting the global threat of terrorism. In that regard, those countries advocated strengthening the central coordinating role of the United Nations, which was uniquely suited for that purpose.

55. Full-scale implementation of the Global Strategy, the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly and the international counter-terrorism conventions was the most crucial task in improving the international system for combating terrorism. The SCO countries would continue to cooperate with CTITF, the Security Council and its counter-terrorism-related committees.

56. Given the spread of terrorist ideology, the condemnation of terrorism must become an intrinsic component of the dialogue between religions and civilizations. The SCO countries actively supported all efforts to prevent terrorism, including by countering the ideology that nourished it, and attached great importance to cooperation among States, civil society, the media and the private sector in counter-terrorism efforts.

57. At the thirteenth SCO Summit, held in Bishkek on 13 September 2013, the leaders of SCO countries had reaffirmed their determination to strengthen joint actions in the fight against terrorism, extremism, drug traffic and organized crime, and to promote stability

and security in the region. In that regard, SCO member States were implementing the SCO 2013-2015 programme to combat terrorism, separatism and extremism. SCO observer States and dialogue partners would also participate in that process. At the most recent SCO Summit, a proposal had been adopted to reform the Regional Counter-Terrorism Structure in order to better address the range of emerging challenges and threats to security in the region. The Structure was responsible for coordinating between the competent authorities of SCO countries and providing technical support. SCO planned to further enhance the strategies and activities of the Structure by strengthening its partnership with relevant United Nations agencies.

58. The SCO countries considered the dangerous nexus of terrorism and organized crime, particularly the terrorism and drug trafficking emanating from Afghanistan, to be the leading destabilizing factor in Central Asia. The withdrawal of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) from Afghanistan in 2014 would further exacerbate the situation. SCO called for the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council and for the creation of a broad partnership of interested States and international and regional organizations. Many SCO agreements, including its 2009 Convention on Counter-Terrorism, offered important contributions to the development of an international legal framework. In that regard, it stressed the need for an early agreement on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

59. **Ms. Cujo** (Observer for the European Union) said that the recent attack in Nairobi underscored the seriousness of the terrorist threat to international peace and security and the global impact of the problem. The European Union strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Member States must work together, in the framework of the Global Strategy, to ensure that those responsible were prosecuted and punished.

60. While the European Union had developed its own counter-terrorism strategy in 2005 which addressed internal and external issues, it worked with the United Nations to make all counter-terrorism efforts mutually reinforcing. As underlined during the New Deal for Somalia Conference, held in Brussels on 16 September 2013, support for international efforts to promote

stability in Somalia and the Horn of Africa region as a whole was of the utmost importance.

61. Implementation of the Global Strategy remained central to the efforts of the European Union and its member countries. As the terrorist threat continued to evolve and manifest itself in different parts of the world, States were compelled to adapt their response. The upcoming fourth biennial review of the implementation of the Global Strategy offered a good opportunity to update and strengthen that framework to ensure that capacity-building efforts were combined with the fullest respect for human rights and the rule of law on a sustainable basis.

62. Recalling the importance of respecting the rights of victims of terrorism, she called on Member States and relevant United Nations entities to promote measures to ensure solidarity and assistance. In that regard, the work of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism deserved recognition. A holistic, multi-layer approach involving all sectors of society was required in the fight against terrorism. The European Union therefore welcomed the launch of a new fund set up by the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCTF) to support local efforts to counter violent extremism. Greater cooperation, in particular the sharing of information and best practices, was needed among Member States in order to address the issue of foreign fighters.

63. Countering the financing of terrorism was a core component of the European Union counter-terrorism strategy. As terrorists and their supporters constantly modified their ways of raising, moving and gaining access to funds, Member States needed to adapt their instruments and measures used in response; that included taking a proactive stance against the increasingly prominent practice of kidnapping individuals for ransom payments, and identifying best practices with the goal of tracking financial flows. The European Union had developed a range of measures aimed at cutting off terrorists' access to funding and was committed to the implementation of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) standards. It actively contributed to the work of the Task Force as well as to the implementation of FATF recommendations in the region. The relevant United Nations resolutions, the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the relevant Council of

Europe instruments also played an important role in the Union's efforts to counter terrorist financing.

64. The European Union continued to support the work of the Security Council committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004), which provided a fundamental framework for international efforts to prevent and fight terrorism and to develop national and regional counter-terrorism capacities. The prompt and effective implementation of sanctions by all States was of critical importance in those efforts. With regard to targeted sanctions regimes, the European Union recognized the recent case law in the European Court of Justice. Fair and clear procedures and respect for the rule of law were necessary to uphold the legitimacy and efficiency of such regimes. In that context, the significant steps taken by the Security Council to reinforce fair and clear procedures for United Nations sanctions, including the enhancement of the role of the Office of the Ombudsperson and the publishing of delisting procedures online, were welcome. The work of the Ombudsperson was to be commended. In that regard the renewal of her mandate in December 2012 and the strengthening of her Office, including in the areas of effectiveness and transparency, were welcome steps.

65. The European Union had established excellent cooperation with the United Nations in its counter-terrorism activities, in particular through engaging in regular dialogue on the issue. It would continue to support the activities of CTITF and CTED and looked forward to a fruitful cooperation with the new CTED Executive Director. The European Union had begun to develop comprehensive counter-terrorism strategies to support and promote multilateral and regional cooperation, in particular with countries in the Sahel region and the Horn of Africa, and with Yemen and Pakistan. Those strategies reflected its long-term engagement with building national and regional counter-terrorism approaches in order to ensure national ownership and participation in the process. The Union would also continue to provide financial support to CTED, UNODC, CTITF and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) in that regard. It urged Member States to ratify and implement all United Nations counter-terrorism conventions and protocols. It also recognized Member States' efforts to draft a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Lastly, the

Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC was to be commended for its efforts to assist Member States in their efforts to fight terrorism.

66. **Mr. Barriga** (Liechtenstein) said that his Government strongly condemned all acts of terrorism, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes and was committed to contributing fully to the counter-terrorism effort, including through cooperation with the relevant United Nations bodies. It had ratified 13 international counter-terrorism instruments, had submitted seven reports to the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee and continued to support the work of the other relevant Security Council committees. As a member of the informal group of like-minded countries, Liechtenstein would continue to promote the effectiveness and legitimacy of counter-terrorism-related sanctions regimes. In that regard, the crucial role of the Ombudsperson, whose independent advice had led to significant improvements of the Al-Qaida Sanctions List, should be highlighted. His delegation called on the Security Council to further develop fair and clear procedures and apply them to other sanctions regimes, as appropriate, particularly in the light of the recent judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union in the case of Mr. Kadi, a resident of Saudi Arabia who had been placed on the Sanctions List (case C-584/10 P).

67. Through the complementary roles played by the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Secretariat, the United Nations was at the centre of global efforts to combat terrorism. The Sixth Committee had also contributed by drafting international counter-terrorism conventions, in particular the 1997 International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, the 1999 International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the 2005 International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

68. During the current session, the Sixth Committee would be drafting the traditional resolution on measures to counter international terrorism, although it would not consider the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Furthermore, in a few days time, the General Assembly plenary would also debate the issue of counter-terrorism and negotiate a draft resolution on the review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In that crowded field, the Sixth

Committee should seek to avoid duplication and improve the quality of its work. His delegation reiterated its proposal that the current agenda item should be considered on a biennial basis, alternating with the General Assembly's biennial review of the Global Strategy.

69. **Mr. Stuerchler Gonzenbach** (Switzerland) said that, while his delegation supported the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee that the Sixth Committee, at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, should establish a working group with a view to finalizing the process on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism as well as discussions on the question of convening a high-level conference, it also deeply regretted that the Sixth Committee and the Ad Hoc Committee had been as yet unable to conclude a comprehensive convention, as called for in the 2005 World Summit Outcome document (A/RES/60/1) and in the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The successful conclusion of negotiations would have reinforced the universally recognized legitimacy of the General Assembly and its unique authority in setting standards, including in the area of counter-terrorism; strengthened the international community's efforts to prevent terrorist attacks; and provided an agreed definition of terrorism as an international crime. His delegation therefore maintained its position that the conclusion of a comprehensive convention was warranted, and it stood ready to offer constructive contributions to that process.

70. His Government would continue to support a holistic approach to the fight against terrorism, as set out in the Global Strategy, which integrated concerns for security, development and human rights. In that regard, Switzerland and CTITF had organized the Second International Counter-Terrorism Focal Points Conference, held in Geneva in June 2013, to support the implementation of the Global Strategy. In addition, the Swiss Government, together with the Government of Norway and the Centre on Global Counterterrorism Cooperation, had launched an initiative aimed at enhancing the biennial review of the Global Strategy through the development of a set of suggested reporting guidelines and priorities, which would be presented to Member States for their consideration prior to the next biennial review. The goal was to help streamline the reporting process and ensure that all four pillars of the Global Strategy were given equal

attention. His Government would also support the efforts of CTITF to ensure that the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the Global Strategy would include clearer criteria and indicators that Member States could consider during the review process, taking into account the priorities of the various CTITF entities.

71. His delegation was grateful to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its generous donation to UNCCT. In order to make the best use of those resources, the relationship between the Centre and CTITF as well as with Member States would need to be assessed. Consideration should also be given to questions including: what would constitute an efficient and legitimate governance and management structure; what criteria UNCCT would use when deciding to support a specific capacity-building project; and how the Centre would ensure that its activities would implement all four pillars of the Strategy. His Government supported the joint initiative of CTED and UNODC on conducting counter-terrorism investigations and prosecutions while respecting human rights and the rule of law. The initiative had been launched at an event held in Geneva from 2 to 3 October, which had brought together prosecutors and investigators from 24 States and representatives from a dozen international organizations.

72. **Mr. Masood Khan** (Pakistan) said that his Government strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomsoever, whenever, wherever and for whatever purposes, and rejected the killing of civilians in any part of the world under the pretext of ideological differences or any other flawed reasoning. Given that terrorism was a complex challenge with multiple causes and national, regional and international implications, it required a comprehensive response from the international community. Piecemeal or one-dimensional approaches focused exclusively on operational or political measures would not produce the desired results.

73. The Government of Pakistan was pursuing a comprehensive response, deterring terrorist acts through military means and allocating resources for development to the regions in the country that had been hardest hit by terrorism. The Prime Minister had recently initiated dialogue with the Taliban in pursuit of peace and harmony. In a recent address to the General Assembly, he had stressed that dialogue should not be seen as a sign of weakness or a tool of

appeasement; the aim was to de-radicalize extremists and to bring them back to the national mainstream. Over the past 12 years, Pakistan had lost the precious lives of 40,000 men, women and children to terrorism, which included 8,000 defence and security personnel. The country's social and physical infrastructure had also suffered colossal damages, and its economic development had been hampered.

74. The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the relevant Security Council resolutions stressed the importance of the rule of law and due process while combating terrorism. The war against terrorism must be waged within the framework of international law. In that regard, the use of armed drones in the border areas of Pakistan was a continued violation of State sovereignty, international law and international human rights and humanitarian law. The recognized principles of distinction, proportionality and geographical disjunction had not been observed. The use of drones had resulted in casualties of innocent men, women and children, leading to disaffection, alienation and psycho-social trauma, and had been detrimental to his Government's efforts to eliminate extremism and terrorism. Following a drone strike, the entire population became subject to reprisals by terrorists who targeted their innocent victims at random in any part of the country. The Prime Minister had urged the United States of America to cease the drone strikes and prevent further casualties and suffering.

75. With an unwavering commitment to fighting terrorism, his Government had deployed more than 150,000 troops along its border with Afghanistan and had set up 1,707 border posts to interdict Al-Qaida and Taliban members. In addition, legislation had been adopted to establish a counter-terrorism authority, a new organization that would integrate the counter-terrorism efforts of various bodies. The Prime Minister had also initiated a process of sweeping amendments to the Anti-Terrorism Act in order to facilitate the use of forensic and electronic evidence and enact preventive measures against targeted killing and kidnapping for ransom.

76. Pakistan was committed to intensifying international cooperation in the areas of security, law enforcement, financial measures and other aspects of ongoing efforts to prevent and eliminate terrorist activities. Given the regional and global dimensions of terrorism, all countries must do more to combat the menace, including through efforts to find common

solutions in a cooperative framework. His Government fully supported the 2006 Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which addressed the root causes and conditions leading to the spread of terrorism and aimed to build a more harmonious environment among major civilizations. However, the Global Strategy should focus more sharply on the unjust defamation of certain religions and communities. The biased portrayal of Islam and the acts of incitement and hate-speech against the faith of nearly 1.2 billion Muslims exacerbated the divergence in attitudes and created misperceptions between the Islamic world and the West. An honest dialogue between different civilizations was a political imperative. Terrorism and extremism should not be associated with any religion, race, ethnic group, faith, value system, culture or society.

77. The international community must urgently address the root causes of terrorism, including protracted unresolved conflicts, unlawful use of force, aggression, foreign occupation, denial of the right to self-determination, political and economic injustices, and political marginalization and alienation. His Government supported the continuation of the initiative undertaken by the relevant Security Council committees to ensure due process in the implementation of sanctions regimes, as much more remained to be done to satisfy the legal community in that regard.

78. His delegation fully supported the position of OIC on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. It favoured the adoption of the convention by consensus and believed that its provisions should clearly distinguish between acts of terrorism and the legitimate struggles for self-determination of peoples living under foreign occupation. Questions related to international humanitarian law must be addressed in the language of that law. The deadlock in negotiations on the definition and scope of the draft convention highlighted the persistent divergence of positions, while the postponement of negotiations on the convention to the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly was indicative of serious challenges. His delegation remained open to discussing any proposal which did not in any way compromise or constrain the legitimate struggle of people for self-determination. It also supported the proposal made by the delegation of

Egypt to convene a high-level special session of the General Assembly on cooperation against terrorism.

79. The coordination and coherence of United Nations counter-terrorism efforts must be enhanced by CTITF without blurring the distinct mandates of the General Assembly and the Security Council. His Government supported the activities of UNCCT and was satisfied with its progress. The recent contribution of \$100 million to the Centre from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would greatly facilitate the implementation of the Global Strategy.

80. **Mr. Sousa Bravo** (Mexico) said that his Government condemned terrorism in all of its forms and manifestations, and, in that regard, supported the key coordination role played by the United Nations system in the counter-terrorism effort. His delegation attached importance to the efforts of CTITF to improve coordination among the various system agencies, programmes and entities. CTED also offered Member States critical support in fulfilling their obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions, international treaties and the Global Strategy, which his Government considered the primary framework on the issue. The visit of CTED to Mexico in December 2011 and its resulting recommendations had renewed his Government's commitment to maintaining a dialogue with the Executive Directorate.

81. The Secretary-General's report (A/68/180), which highlighted international efforts to build capacity and achieve the adoption and implementation of measures to investigate, deter and punish those responsible for planning or committing terrorist acts, offered evidence of his Government's conviction that an integrated and comprehensive approach to eliminating terrorism could only be achieved through international cooperation.

82. With the support of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Government of Canada, his Government had continued its efforts to strengthen national capacity to prevent the transit, traffic and use of dual-use materials for terrorist purposes and had conducted a programme to enhance maritime and port protection in Mexico's 17 major ports. A cooperation programme had also been launched to facilitate the implementation of provisions of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

83. One of the most productive international cooperation initiatives over the past decade had been

the establishment of specialized centres aimed at building and strengthening capacities to prevent and combat terrorism at the national, regional and international levels. In that regard, his Government welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, and the support of Member States for that institution, in particular the recent contribution of the Government of Saudi Arabia.

84. Efforts to eradicate international terrorism had made clear that the root causes of terrorism, such as underdevelopment, poverty, discrimination, and racial and religious stigma, must be addressed as a priority. Respect for basic human rights, which included respect for international humanitarian law and refugee law and the prohibition of torture, were implicit obligations under any legal regime and a necessary condition for achieving the goal of eradicating terrorism. The legality of any adopted measure and its implementation depended on the minimal inclusion of such principles.

85. A more robust legal regime, including terrorism-related issues, was also needed. In that regard, he called on Member States to ratify the relevant international treaties and noted that Mexico had ratified the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material of 2005 in August 2012 and had become the seventh country to ratify the Arms Trade Treaty on 25 September 2013. The uncontrolled trade in and proliferation of small arms and light weapons created an environment that facilitated the perpetration of terrorist acts, such as the recent attack on Nairobi. His delegation expressed its solidarity with the Government of Kenya.

86. The scourge of international terrorism had tested the international community's capacity to coordinate a coherent response and offer solidarity and respect to the victims. His delegation pledged to pursue the conclusion of negotiations on a convention on international terrorism in a constructive and flexible manner during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

87. **Mr. Wang Min** (China) said that, while in recent years, under the leadership of relevant United Nations agencies and pursuant to international treaties, the international community had worked to deepen cooperation in the fight against terrorism, the recent spate of attacks had underscored the fact that terrorism constituted a grave threat to international peace and security and that countering terrorism continued to be

an arduous and complex task. The Chinese Government had always opposed terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and supported international efforts to eliminate it.

88. With regard to international cooperation, his delegation believed that counter-terrorism endeavours should be led by the United Nations. Only a joint response by Member States and international organizations could deal with the international scourge that affected all. The Chinese Government supported efforts made by the relevant United Nations bodies to strengthen coordination and cooperation while acting in accordance with their own mandates. His delegation called for a comprehensive implementation of the Global Strategy, which included a balanced approach to advancing its four pillars. It was hoped that UNCCT would play an effective role in counter-terrorism capacity-building and assistance.

89. Counter-terrorism activities must strictly comply with international law, including the United Nations Charter. His delegation called on Member States to adopt the 13 United Nations counter-terrorism conventions and fully respect their treaty obligations. His Government attached great importance to and supported the drafting of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. It was hoped that parties would work in a cooperative and constructive spirit in order to conclude the negotiations as soon as possible with a view to building a complete international legal regime on counter-terrorism.

90. Efforts to combat terrorism should adhere to a uniform set of criteria and avoid double-standards and selectivity. Terrorists, whatever their identity, motivations and purposes, should be fought with an equal measure of resolve. To base counter-terrorism efforts on ideology and national preferences was to deviate from the fundamental principles underpinning the fight against terrorism. His Government reaffirmed its opposition to any attempt to link terrorism with a specific country, Government, ethnicity or religion and to any effort to harbour and abet terrorists on political, ethnic or religious grounds.

91. Both the symptoms and the root causes of terrorism must be addressed; prevention and punishment should go hand in hand. A holistic approach involving political, economic, social and diplomatic dimensions was needed, including efforts to eliminate poverty, improve sources of livelihood,



tackle development issues and promote education and cultural development. In order stem the propagation of terrorism, it was important to take a long-term view while also addressing immediate concerns.

92. China was a victim of terrorism. Its Government therefore attached great importance to the prevention of terrorism, primarily through integrated measures that sought to promote economic development and improve education in order to foster a harmonious environment and achieve social justice, stability and unity. It also sought to strengthen counter-terrorism legislation. In October 2011, the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress approved the first piece of legislation on issues related to strengthening counter-terrorism activities. It provided clear definitions of terrorist activities, terrorist organizations and terrorists and defined the procedures for identifying and making public the names of terrorist organizations and individuals and freezing terrorism-related assets. The legislation had improved China's legal mechanisms for implementing Security Council counter-terrorism resolutions while providing a clear domestic legal framework for the State's international cooperation.

93. His Government played an integral role in international efforts to root out terrorism. The Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM), an "East Turkestan" terrorist force, constituted the most direct and real terrorist threat to the country. In an attempt to divide China, it had long carried out terrorist attacks that had resulted in large numbers of civilian casualties and heavy property loss, posing a grave threat to national security and regional peace and stability. ETIM had been placed on the Security Council Al-Qaida Sanctions List in September 2002. In December 2003, China's Ministry of Public Security had identified it as one of the four "East Turkestan" terrorist organizations, and, in September 2007, it had been placed on the list of terrorist organizations that were banned from operating in the territories of member States of SCO. The Chinese Government had responded to attacks by the "East Turkestan" terrorist forces, including ETIM, in accordance with the law, and had thwarted their attempts to commit acts of sabotage.

94. His Government attached great importance to international counter-terrorism cooperation. It engaged in effective and extensive bilateral and multilateral cooperation and had established regular and ad hoc

mechanisms to conduct consultations and exchanges with over 20 countries. It participated in GCTF activities, supported international cooperation against the financing of terrorism and had provided, to the best of its ability, material assistance and training in the area of counter-terrorism to developing countries.

95. His Government highly valued the role played by SCO in furthering regional counter-terrorism cooperation. In June 2013, the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress approved the agreement on the procedure for organizing and conducting joint counter-terrorism exercises by SCO member States and the agreement on the procedure for organizing and conducting joint counter-terrorism operations on the territory of SCO member States, thereby creating a legal basis for the conduct of such exercises and operations. His Government would continue to engage in joint endeavours to fight against all forms of terrorism and maintain international peace and security.

96. **Mr. Diallo** (Senegal) said that, despite the tireless efforts of the international community, terrorism remained one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, with disastrous consequences on the stability and social and economic development of States. Given that terrorists operated through transnational networks, often communicating through information technology, the fight against international terrorism required the individual and collective commitment of Member States as well as authentic and effective international cooperation aimed at implementing holistic approaches and coherent actions. In that regard, the Global Strategy was the most comprehensive framework for an effective response to terrorism. Its four pillars, which were each essential and interdependent upon the others, should be implemented in a balanced manner. More dynamic and inclusive cooperation with a view to broader sharing of information and experience, as well as greater coordination of counter-terrorism efforts, was needed in order to translate the commitments made under the Global Strategy into action.

97. Terrorism continued to destroy innocent lives. The current situation in the Sahel region, and especially in northern Mali, and the recent deadly attack committed in Nairobi, showed that the battle against extremism and terrorism was far from over. Counter-terrorism initiatives at the regional and global levels should therefore be better coordinated. There

was also a need to promote dialogue among civilizations, combat prejudices and enhance intercultural and interfaith understanding in order to dispel the misunderstandings and stereotypes that could foster hatred, intolerance and violence. The adoption of a convention on international terrorism would considerably strengthen the legal framework for counter-terrorist activity.

98. While reiterating its total condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, his delegation strongly condemned any attempt to associate it with a given religion, culture, race or ethnicity. Lastly, he reaffirmed his Government's commitment to ensuring that all measures taken to combat terrorism complied with international law and, in particular, international human rights law.

99. **Mr. Adamov** (Belarus) said that, despite the efforts of the international community, terrorism was increasingly linked to transnational organized crime, trafficking in drugs and small arms and light weapons, and money-laundering. Member States must therefore strengthen their efforts to implement the Global Strategy and the relevant international treaties and Security Council resolutions. A comprehensive, multilateral approach to terrorism must ensure respect for human rights, the rule of law and the principles and norms of international law.

100. His delegation supported the activities of UNODC to facilitate the universal implementation of international treaties on terrorism and strengthen mechanisms for international cooperation in criminal cases linked to terrorism. It also took note of the increased efforts of UNODC to share specialized legal knowledge related to counter-terrorism. Member States required the active support of United Nations system entities to implement their national counter-terrorism strategies. In particular, support was needed to train human resources, improve technical capacities and provide support and assistance to victims of terrorism.

101. His delegation welcomed the efforts of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Committee to reach consensus on the conclusion of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. However, without the political will of Member States, their efforts would be in vain. He called on Member States to work in the spirit of flexibility to produce a balanced convention that would reflect the cross-cutting branches of international law. His

delegation hoped that as a result of the negotiation process States would not, at a later stage, be denied their right to exercise their options under international law, such as reservations and interpretative statements, in order to express their particular views. The question of whether the draft convention should be discussed within a working group of the Sixth Committee or at a high-level conference was secondary to the need to achieve the requisite political will of States to conclude negotiations. In that regard, the matter of the conference should not be linked to the convention; progress on the issue should continue before a conference was convened.

*The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.*