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## Sixth Committee

### Summary record of the 3rd meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 7 October 2013, at 3 p.m.

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

## Contents

Agenda item 110: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*)

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*The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.*

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

1. **Mr. Gebremeskel Zewdu** (Ethiopia) said that, in recent years, the Horn of Africa had witnessed the expansion of terrorist and extremist activities beyond national borders. The recent attack in Kenya had highlighted the need for a renewed commitment to fight terrorism and extremism in the region and beyond. Ethiopia had been a victim of international and domestic terrorism since the early 1990s. Changing political dynamics and a combination of domestic and regional negative forces had contributed to the expansion of terrorist networks in the region.

2. The international counter-terrorism effort needed to be strengthened; Ethiopia, as a Member of the United Nations and a member of the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, reiterated its resolve to join that effort. It had ratified the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Declaration on a Code of Conduct for Inter-African Relations and the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism. It was also a party to nine international counter-terrorism instruments.

3. His Government had taken a number of legal and administrative measures to implement those regional and international instruments and the counter-terrorism resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council. It had been cooperating with United Nations organs to follow up on the list of individuals and organs subject to Security Council sanctions. It had also put in place legal mechanisms and procedures to prevent terrorism, including enhanced investigation and prosecution systems, and had adopted proclamations on counter-terrorism and on the prevention and suppression of money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. It had established a national anti-terrorism coordinating committee to address the threat of terrorism holistically, and its financial intelligence centre was mandated to coordinate the various institutions involved in the fight against money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

4. **Mr. Sergeyev** (Ukraine) said that almost every day there were new victims of terrorist attacks in different corners of the world. Terrorism could be eliminated only through consolidated and decisive

measures by the international community under the auspices of the United Nations. His Government firmly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of motivation or objectives. It supported the central role of the United Nations in counter-terrorism efforts and particularly appreciated the work of CTITF and UNODC in that regard. He looked forward to the next review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and called on Member States to continue to implement it in full. Ukraine was a party to all the international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols, and his delegation urged all Member States that had not done so to consider following suit.

5. His delegation supported the activities of the Security Council committees relating to counter-terrorism and commended the steps taken to reinforce fair and clear procedures in the United Nations sanctions regimes. The visit to Ukraine by a delegation of the Counter-Terrorism Committee scheduled for October 2013 would contribute to the country's international cooperation on counter-terrorism.

6. Ukraine's current legislation provided a solid basis for its counter-terrorism efforts. The Penal Code made it an offence not only to commit a terrorist act, but also to incite such acts or to provide related financial or material assistance. His Government was continuing to improve its counter-terrorism laws and regulations, and to that end had recently adopted a counter-terrorism policy framework. The State Committee for Financial Monitoring had entered into some 40 bilateral arrangements with its partners in other countries. The Government had adopted and was implementing a national strategy for the prevention of money-laundering and the financing of terrorism for the period until 2015, which was fully compliant with the Global Strategy and the country's human rights obligations.

7. Ukraine was a party to some 20 international counter-terrorism instruments and cooperated actively with the related efforts of many international and regional organizations and bodies, including the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of Europe, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova (GUAM) Organization for Democracy and Economic Development. His Government had taken a leading role in efforts to prevent nuclear terrorism and promote

non-proliferation by implementing its pledge to eliminate its national stocks of highly enriched uranium. As the current OSCE Chair, Ukraine, in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, would host a regional workshop on implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in Kyiv in November 2013.

8. One of the most important remaining tasks was adoption of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism; the proposals put forward in 2007 could form the basis of consensus. He called on all Member States to intensify their efforts to finalize the draft in the near future.

9. **Mr. Otsuka** (Japan) said that his delegation joined others in condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Despite global efforts, the threat of terrorism remained high and real. September 2013 had seen a hideous terrorist attack in Kenya, while the terrorist incident in Algeria in January had cost the lives of more than 30 people, including 10 Japanese citizens. His Government was determined to cooperate with the international community in order to eliminate such heinous acts.

10. The United Nations had a pivotal role in coordinating such efforts. In that regard, his Government recognized the need to appoint a United Nations Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, provided that the establishment of such a post helped promote efficient, coherent and integrated counter-terrorism measures. It was also important to establish the relevant legal basis by finalizing the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism; a high-level conference should be held to coincide with its adoption.

11. Outside the United Nations framework, his Government was providing some \$16 million to help build capacity in countries facing terrorist threats, including those in North Africa and the Sahel. Furthermore, at the fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development in June 2013, the Prime Minister had announced approximately \$1 billion in humanitarian and development assistance over the next five years and human resources development for 2,000 people responsible for anti-terrorism measures and security in the same region.

12. **Mr. Joyini** (South Africa) said that the recent horrific terrorist attacks in Pakistan, Nigeria and Kenya, and the equally horrific past attacks in Uganda, India, London and other places, reinforced the need for decisive international action to root out the scourge of terrorism. His Government abhorred all forms of terrorism and condemned in the strongest terms terrorist acts, wherever and by whomsoever committed, as fundamental violations of international law and human rights.

13. Since 2000 the negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism had been stuck, in particular, on the question of which acts were to be included in a definition of terrorism. During the April 2013 session of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996, his delegation had expressed concern at the seeming inability to make progress and had suggested that, after 14 years, the time had come to decide among three possible options: the first, and preferable, option was to adopt the draft convention on the basis of the 2007 text; the second option was to package a consolidated text, including all proposals, and recommend a pause in the process to the General Assembly; and the third was to concede that there was no consensus and abandon efforts to elaborate a convention. The Committee had chosen the second option.

14. There was no point in continuing to meet in various forums, at great expense, if there was no political will to adopt the draft convention. Continuous annual meetings without any substantive discussion or movement could no longer be justified. His delegation hoped that Member States would use the pause period to try to achieve consensus; otherwise, difficult choices would have to be made.

15. **Mr. Ruiz** (Colombia) said that his Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and reiterated that it could not be justified under any circumstances. Despite the progress noted in the report of the Secretary-General on measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/68/180), terrorist attacks continued to be committed around the world, such as the reprehensible acts of September 2013 in Kenya, which had once again demonstrated the utter disregard on the part of all terrorists for human rights, the rule of law and the values shared by the whole of humanity.

16. His Government was committed to developing and strengthening counter-terrorism instruments and forums at the national, regional and international levels, which must take account of the continuous evolution and increasing sophistication of terrorist activities. International cooperation was needed to support national capacity-building, the dissemination of specialist knowledge and the sharing of experience and good practice. Colombia, together with the United Nations, had organized the International Conference on National and Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategies, held in Bogotá in early 2013, where complementarity with the Global Strategy had been discussed with a view to improving the coordination of activities at all levels. In addition, on 30 September 2013 Colombia had deposited its instrument of ratification of the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection.

17. A comprehensive counter-terrorism effort required effective measures to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism. Firm political will was needed, along with appropriate regulatory frameworks, robust institutions equipped with sufficient resources, and efficient mechanisms for cooperation and information exchange among States. It was also necessary to develop and strengthen tools for preventing the proceeds of organized crime from being used to support terrorism. Links between terrorism and organized criminal groups must be eliminated and firm measures must be taken to fulfil the international commitment to combat money-laundering. One of his Government's main concerns was the diversion of weapons to non-State armed groups, which not only had a negative impact on human rights, exacerbated conflicts and undermined States' stability and security, but was also closely linked to terrorism. The Arms Trade Treaty was an important step forward in that regard and would contribute to activities aimed at preventing and eradicating terrorism.

18. Strict and full compliance with the obligations established under international law, including the various international instruments relating to terrorism, human rights, humanitarian law and refugees, was a prerequisite for the success of the global fight against terrorism. Continuous efforts must also be made to implement all the pillars of the Global Strategy. Despite the large number of legally binding international instruments, the lack of a comprehensive convention undermined efforts to combat international

terrorism. The Committee should hold open and inclusive consultations so as to reach consensus on the draft convention without delay. Cooperation and flexibility were needed on the part of all members. The Ad Hoc Committee had made significant progress over the years, but it was time to consider whether it had exhausted the means at its disposal for the fulfilment of its mandate and to discuss alternative ways of overcoming outstanding differences and finalizing the draft convention.

19. **Mr. Errázuriz** (Chile) reaffirmed his Government's commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations in strict conformity with international law, international human rights standards, international humanitarian law and international refugee law. All acts of terrorism must be unequivocally and firmly condemned by the international community and their perpetrators must be brought to justice. Accordingly, Chile was a party to 16 international and regional counter-terrorism instruments, including the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism and the 2005 International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and was considering the feasibility of becoming a party to the remaining international instruments.

20. It was essential to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, including prolonged unresolved conflicts, the dehumanization of victims of terrorism, the absence of the rule of law, human rights violations, ethnic, national and religious discrimination, political exclusion, socioeconomic marginalization and lack of good governance, while recognizing that none of those factors could excuse or justify acts of terrorism.

21. Terrorism continued to pose a threat to entire regions and to global security, spreading fear and panic. He called on all States, in conformity with international law, to cooperate fully in the fight against terrorism, especially with those States whose territory or citizens had been the targets of terrorism, so as to find, apprehend and deny safe haven to anyone who participated or intended to participate in the financing, planning, preparation or commission of terrorist acts or the provision of safe haven to the perpetrators, or who supported or facilitated such acts, and bring them to justice on the basis of the principle of extradite or prosecute and States' national law.

22. Enhanced international counter-terrorism cooperation was needed, with the United Nations at the centre of those efforts. He reaffirmed his delegation's commitment to the Global Strategy; welcomed the progress in implementing its four pillars; and endorsed its holistic approach, which addressed the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and provided for capacity-building measures and for strengthening the role of the United Nations. His delegation also welcomed the Strategy's mention of the need to respect human rights and the rule of law. Counter-terrorism measures must respect international law, particularly human rights, humanitarian and refugee law, and must be consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant treaties.

23. His Government welcomed the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) in implementing the Global Strategy and coordinating the Organization's activities in that area. It also welcomed the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and had submitted reports to the Committee whenever required. His delegation acknowledged the important work of regional and subregional organizations in implementing the Global Strategy and reiterated its call for enhanced cooperation among them. Of particular note in that regard were the Organization of American States (OAS) and its Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), in which his Government was an active participant. It also participated in the South American Financial Action Task Force (GAFISUD), which played an important role in the prevention of money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

24. The report of the Secretary-General on measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/68/180) gave a useful overview of measures taken at the national and international levels; of the status of international legal instruments relating to the prevention and suppression of international terrorism; and of workshops and training courses on combating crimes connected with international terrorism.

25. It was essential to identify and eliminate the factors that gave rise to terrorist acts, including political, ethnic, racial and religious intolerance and the social and economic divide between nations. All States should strengthen their mechanisms for judicial cooperation and the exchange of information between their police and financial intelligence units in order to

combat the financing of terrorism and the preparation of terrorist acts.

26. He called on Member States to make every effort to conclude the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism as quickly as possible. With flexibility on the part of the negotiators, the instrument could be adopted during the current session of the General Assembly. Delegations must recognize that only a compromise text had the potential for adoption. His delegation welcomed the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendation that the Sixth Committee, at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, should establish a working group with a view to finalizing the draft convention and continuing discussion on the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations.

27. **Mr. Zagaynov** (Russian Federation) said that, despite the measures taken by the international community, the threat of terrorism was not waning. Events in North Africa, the Sahel and the Middle East represented a fresh escalation of that threat and increased the risk of the further spread of extremist ideology and the reactivation of regional branches of Al-Qaida and other terrorist groups. Of particular concern was the fact that militants in those regions continued to arm themselves with weapons from Libyan arsenals. The situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan remained volatile, fed in part by the proceeds of the illicit trade in Afghan opiates. The weaving of terrorism into the fabric of current regional conflicts was an extremely dangerous trend. Those threats could be eliminated only through the collective efforts of the entire international community, with the United Nations playing the central coordinating role, in strict compliance with international law.

28. There was no room for double standards. Attempts to pass off terrorist activities as a struggle for democracy and freedom could encourage the malevolent ideas of extremists and create new centres of instability. It was perplexing that essentially the same extremist groups were met in some cases with armed resistance, as in Mali, and yet in other cases received support, as in the Syrian Arab Republic.

29. In order to stop the radicalization of public opinion and interreligious and intrareligious strife around the world, it was vital for States to maintain their efforts, under United Nations auspices, to reduce the appeal of terrorist activities, curb the spread of

ideologies of terrorism and violent extremism and prevent the use of the media and the Internet for terrorist purposes. There should be wide-ranging dialogue with civil society structures able to play a positive role in education, research, the fostering of tolerance and understanding between ethnic and religious groups, the promotion of human rights and the rejection of ideologies of hatred and violence. In cooperation with CTITF, his delegation would promote partnerships with civil society as part of the Global Strategy.

30. His delegation attached importance to the efforts of CTITF to develop comprehensive regional and national counter-terrorism strategies and to secure sufficient resources for its work, including through the incorporation of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre. He hoped that the recent generous contribution from Saudi Arabia would help not only the Centre but also the other entities forming part of the Task Force to fulfil their counter-terrorism mandates more effectively. It would also boost those entities that had already proved their effectiveness, such as the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), by helping them to strengthen the counter-terrorism efforts of States, at their request, in all regions where terrorist and extremist activity was on the increase. He hoped that the fourth review of the Global Strategy, scheduled for June 2014, would reaffirm the need to strengthen the collective basis of counter-terrorism activities, with the United Nations playing the central coordinating role, while at the same time recognizing that the primary responsibility for implementation of the Strategy lay with Member States.

31. He emphasized the significant role of the Security Council in implementing the Global Strategy and expressed support for the measures taken, through the Security Council committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004), to help States implement those resolutions. His Government also attached particular importance to the counter-terrorism activities of regional organizations such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). It had contributed to the drafting of the agreement on the CSTO collective rapid reaction force and the adoption of a CIS model law on

countering terrorism. The organizations mentioned also conducted regular joint counter-terrorism exercises and training programmes for experts in various fields.

32. The United Nations should continue to focus on reinforcing the legal basis of counter-terrorism efforts and should endeavour to increase the number of parties to the relevant international instruments. The conclusion of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism would represent a breakthrough in that regard. His delegation would continue to seek compromise solutions to the unresolved issues surrounding the draft.

33. **Mr. Hassan Ali** (Sudan) said that the number of terrorist acts around the world was increasing, and he condemned in particular the recent events in Pakistan and Kenya. The world had become a smaller place dominated by communications technology; in addition, the increasing proliferation of arms required more cooperation on the part of the international community. His delegation therefore supported the pursuit of dialogue in order to finalize the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

34. Terrorism could not be linked with any religion, country, nationality or skin colour. In addition, the right of occupied peoples to fight against foreign occupation must be upheld and should not under any circumstances be assimilated to terrorist acts. International cooperation to combat terrorism must go beyond agreements and information exchange to encompass capacity-building and technology transfer. His Government would comply with all international counter-terrorism instruments, which provided the legal framework for Sudan's national legislation. It had reviewed the national legal regime and had adopted new legislation aimed at combating organized crime and money-laundering in accordance with international norms.

35. Owing to its geographical location, Sudan played an important role in combating international and regional terrorism, especially in the Horn of Africa, and was cooperating with a number of States at the bilateral level in that regard. Human rights must be respected in counter-terrorism efforts. He therefore cautioned against the imposition by some States of unilateral measures that could have international repercussions, such as the use of force, the making of lists and the groundless imposition of political and economic sanctions, which increased the suffering of

people. Efforts to combat terrorism should not be used as an excuse to interfere in the internal affairs of States, in clear contravention of the Charter of the United Nations.

36. His delegation commended the efforts of the United Nations to combat terrorism, which were based on international agreements, and welcomed in particular the role of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre in promoting capacity-building and the exchange of experience. He expressed appreciation to King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia, the servant of Islam, for his efforts in that regard.

37. **Mr. Çevik** (Turkey) said that the latest heinous terrorist attacks around the world reaffirmed the need for a united global response to the threat of such attacks, from which no place or person was safe. Terrorists should be given the clear message that there was no safe haven or immunity from justice, in accordance with the principle of extradite or prosecute. As a country that had been and continued to be a victim of terrorism, Turkey fully supported the Global Strategy and would take all measures necessary to protect its people from terrorist acts, in full compliance with democratic principles and the rule of law.

38. A strategy tailored to the characteristics of a region or country could help to thwart terrorism at its source. Violent conflicts encouraged terrorist recruitment and the dissemination of terrorist narratives. New trends, such as the threat from self-radicalized individuals, growing exchanges among locally active terrorist groups and an increased number of attacks on sensitive infrastructure, called for greater coherence in existing counter-terrorism measures but also new approaches requiring political will, structural capacity and public support. In that context, the Global Counterterrorism Forum, co-chaired by Turkey and the United States of America, played an important role in the implementation of the Global Strategy.

39. Another priority should be addressing corruption, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism through organized crime. The relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council were effective tools in that regard. There must be full compliance with the 13 major international counter-terrorism instruments, which must be ratified and put into effect by all countries. All Member States must

strive to conclude the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

40. Terrorism should not be associated with any particular religion, and his delegation deplored any attempt to link Islam with terrorism or to incite hatred or discrimination against Muslims or people of other faiths. In order to counter the forces fuelling polarization and extremism, it was necessary to pursue dialogue and broaden understanding among civilizations. The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations had been established at the initiative of Turkey and Spain in order to facilitate harmony and dialogue through the common values of different cultures and religions.

41. **Mr. Al-Kabi** (Qatar) said that his Government condemned all forms of terrorism by whomsoever committed. The recent attacks against civilians in Pakistan and Kenya would only increase the determination of the international community to fight terrorism wherever it occurred. He welcomed the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution [51/210](#) that the Sixth Committee, at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, should establish a working group with a view to finalizing the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which was needed now more than ever. The convention must establish a definition of terrorism, which should not be linked with any particular religion, race or culture, and must address its root causes, including the unlawful use of force, the denial of the right to self-determination of peoples under foreign occupation, and marginalization and the absence of social, political and economic justice. It must also assert the commitment of the international community to cooperate in the fight against terrorism. His Government had been and continued to be actively involved in the ongoing negotiations on the text.

42. Pending the conclusion of the draft convention, his Government was working at the local, national, regional and international levels to implement the Global Strategy. It also implemented the United Nations resolutions on combating terrorism and had ratified most of the relevant international instruments, which were reflected in its national policies.

43. Cooperation against terrorism must be conducted in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, international law and relevant

international instruments. His Government continued to cooperate with CTED, whose visit to Doha in January 2013 had resulted in an agreement to hold a workshop from 10 to 12 December 2013 on comprehensive integrated strategies to fight terrorism. As a member of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, Qatar would host a workshop in March 2014 on combating violent extremism; it also supported the establishment of a fund for countering extremism under the Forum.

44. Qatar had ratified the relevant regional counter-terrorism instruments and had also concluded a number of bilateral memorandums of understanding and agreements, most recently with Spain and Italy in 2013. The Government had adopted national laws that were consistent with the international instruments ratified by Qatar, including laws on money-laundering and counter-terrorism, and had also established a national committee on combating terrorism and money-laundering. It was continuing its preparations for the thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Doha in 2015, which would no doubt contribute to international counter-terrorism efforts.

45. **Ms. Enersen** (Norway) said that respect for human rights and the rule of law must be the starting point for all efforts to combat terrorism. Democracy, freedom of speech, other fundamental freedoms and the rule of law were also crucial to those efforts. Preventing terrorism required a comprehensive, long-term approach that made use of political, legal, economic and, as a last resort, military means. Such an approach was at the core of the Global Strategy, to which her Government was fully committed. Only through a concerted global effort could international terrorism and its global effects be countered. Responsibility for implementing the Global Strategy lay with Member States, while the United Nations played a coordinating role and provided assistance. However, cooperation among United Nations entities needed to be strengthened in order to increase efficiency and avoid overlaps and gaps. Her delegation therefore welcomed the proposal to appoint a United Nations Counter-Terrorism Coordinator.

46. CTITF played an important role in implementing the Global Strategy; her Government supported it both politically and financially. The Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism (I-ACT) initiative, in particular, had produced positive results in terms of

coordination at the country level. Her Government also supported CTED and the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC. There was a need for adequate procedural guarantees for the individuals and organizations listed by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011). The establishment of the Office of the Ombudsperson was a positive step that should be built on in order to facilitate improved implementation of sanctions by Member States.

47. Her Government attached great importance to counter-terrorism cooperation within FATF. The most recent FATF plenary meeting had been held in June 2013 under the Norwegian Presidency. Over the past year, four countries had been removed from the FATF regular follow-up process as a result of their positive action to strengthen measures to counter money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. Furthermore, in February 2013 FATF had adopted a new methodology for assessing compliance with its revised recommendations. The new round of mutual country evaluations would focus on effective implementation rather than on technical compliance. Her delegation continued to attach great importance to the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and hoped that Member States would demonstrate the political will and flexibility required to conclude that process.

48. With regard to Norway's ratification of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, the necessary amendments to domestic law had been made in 2012, and in June 2013 the Government had requested Parliament's consent for ratification. In addition, as a concrete follow-up to the terrorist attacks in Norway in July 2011, the Government had adopted its first national counter-terrorism strategy.

49. **Mr. Manongi** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that continued acts of terrorism around the world — most recently, the attack in Nairobi — served as a heartbreaking reminder of the threat posed to all by terrorism. His Government condemned the Nairobi attack in the strongest terms. The President of the United Republic of Tanzania, speaking at the current session of the General Assembly, had reaffirmed the need to increase vigilance and enhance regional and global cooperation to combat terrorism.



50. The United Republic of Tanzania was a party to nine international counter-terrorism instruments and one regional instrument. It had taken administrative and legislative steps to combat terrorism, including the enactment of relevant laws and the establishment of inter-agency entities that coordinated the Government's counter-terrorism efforts, such as the financial intelligence unit and the National Counter-Terrorism Centre. However, the country still faced several challenges. Small arms and light weapons remained the most common means of committing terrorist attacks. Conflicts and instability, especially in the Great Lakes region and Somalia, had given rise to illicit circulation of such weapons, which needed to be curtailed.

51. Scientific and technological developments had opened up immense opportunities but had also complicated the task of thwarting terrorists, whose activities had become more international in character and whose tactics had diversified. Unsurprisingly, the Internet had become a forum for recruiting young people and for training and radicalizing new terrorist operatives. Moreover, poverty, illiteracy and a lack of formal education and employment opportunities for young people engendered a sense of dissatisfaction that encouraged them to join terrorist groups, where they found acceptance and a means of earning a living.

52. His delegation reaffirmed its commitment to collaborating with Member States to address the key challenges of terrorism and to enhance the counter-terrorism framework. Given the complex nature of the terrorist threat, an integrated and coordinated response was essential. He joined other delegations in calling for an early conclusion of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and urged all parties to take the necessary decisions on outstanding issues that had for many years hampered substantive progress.

53. **Mr. Haniff** (Malaysia) said that his Government strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed and irrespective of the reasons behind it. From Africa to the Middle East, Asia and elsewhere, acts of terrorism showed no signs of abating. Efforts to combat terrorism must therefore continue in a concerted manner, through the United Nations and regional or bilateral initiatives. His Government supported all the pillars of the Global Strategy and looked forward to the third biennial review in 2014. It also welcomed the various conferences and meetings

that had been held throughout the year by the relevant United Nations agencies. The recommendations and proposals emanating from those events must be put into practice. The first pillar of the Global Strategy — the elimination of conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism — should be addressed as a priority, in compliance with the fourth pillar, which required respect for human rights.

54. He reiterated the need to reconcile outstanding differences with regard to the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and to finalize the text. In the meantime, however, efforts to combat terrorism should not be put on hold. States had the sovereign right to enact domestic laws in those areas not covered by the existing sectoral instruments. Other international instruments on humanitarian law and human rights law were also relevant in the context of counter-terrorism. His delegation's position on the draft convention remained the same: the definition of terrorism must cover terrorist attacks committed by States and non-State actors alike. It was equally important to distinguish between terrorism and the legitimate struggle of peoples under foreign occupation for liberation and self-determination. By the same token, terrorism should not be associated with any religion, race, culture, ethnic group or nationality. He reiterated the importance of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations, irrespective of the finalization of the draft convention, to discuss global counter-terrorism efforts.

55. His Government was enhancing its cooperation with other countries on counter-terrorism. It had concluded a number of treaties on extradition and mutual legal assistance, the latest of which was a treaty on extradition with the Government of the Republic of Korea, concluded in January 2013. Requests for extradition and mutual legal assistance pertaining to terrorism were accorded high priority. At the regional level, Malaysia had signed the Convention on Counter-Terrorism of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2007 and had deposited its instrument of ratification with the Secretary-General of ASEAN on 11 January 2013.

56. His Government was also strengthening the domestic legal framework for combating terrorism. Since the entry into force of the Security Offences (Special Measures) Act on 31 July 2012, a total of 31 persons had been detained and charged with offences under the Act, including a police corporal who

had been convicted of non-disclosure of information relating to terrorist acts and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment, the maximum term under the relevant section of the Act.

57. At the current session of the General Assembly, the Prime Minister of Malaysia had repeated his call for the moderate majority, who were appalled by the despicable acts of extremists and terrorists, to occupy the mainstream. Rational, peace-loving people of all races, cultures and beliefs must make their voices heard.

58. **Mr. Sareer** (Maldives) said that his delegation joined others in condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, the most recent heinous example of which was the attack on the shopping mall in Nairobi. Terrorism should not be associated with any particular religion, race, culture, society, group or nation. His delegation commended the work of the various United Nations bodies and agencies to combat terrorism and reiterated its call for the full implementation of the Global Strategy. It also supported the work of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre. There should be a renewed focus on the implementation of the international counter-terrorism instruments and the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. The Maldives was a party to eight of those instruments and was working to accede to the remaining ones. International activities must be complemented by regional, bilateral and national initiatives to combat terrorism. At the same time, in order to streamline those activities, the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism should be finalized.

59. At the regional level, his Government was working on capacity-building and technical cooperation through the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). The Maldives was also a member of the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering and cooperated closely with neighbouring countries and many other strategic partners in combating terrorism. At the national level, the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1990 and the National Security Policy of 2012 provided clear guidance on counter-terrorism measures. An updated Anti-Terrorism Bill was currently being formulated to provide for more effective punishment and better victim support. The Maldives had a traditionally moderate Muslim population but faced an emerging threat from religious and political extremists. His Government condemned

the use of violence to achieve religious or political goals and rejected the calls by radical preachers and militant groups to turn civil conflicts into religious wars, which ran counter to Islamic values. The Maldives had recently witnessed a wave of violent incidents associated with political tension, including an attack in the past 24 hours on a private television station. His Government condemned that attack and would conduct a full investigation aimed at bringing the perpetrators to justice.

60. As the smallest State in the region, the Maldives was susceptible to any regional instability, and its location in the Indian Ocean also made it vulnerable to piracy. The Government was working with other countries and partners in the region to enhance maritime security and welcomed the establishment by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) of a global piracy database. It also welcomed the approval by the Trust Fund to Support Initiatives of States Countering Piracy off the Coast of Somalia of projects worth \$2 million to support the relevant States, including the Maldives.

61. Terrorism was not an isolated phenomenon; rather, it arose from a number of cultural, political, social and economic factors. The Maldives had faced significant economic hardship in recent years owing to its graduation from least developed country (LDC) status and the ensuing loss of assistance, coupled with the global economic downturn and the inherent vulnerabilities associated with being a small island developing State. That situation had created the potential for radicalization of affected segments of the population. His Government was also worried about the spillover effects of conflicts within the region and around the globe. It was as important to address the root causes of terrorism, such as poverty, unemployment and lack of education, as it was to address the crime itself.

62. No individual country could tackle terrorism alone; countries like the Maldives, with limited capacity but a vast geographical area, especially needed international assistance. The United Nations should use its expertise to help achieve the peaceful settlement of unresolved conflicts, which would strengthen the global fight against terrorism while protecting the rights of victims. Counter-radicalization efforts were also important as a long-term means of combating extremism.

63. **Ms. Ramírez Sanchez** (Nicaragua) said that Nicaragua, as an advocate of peace and international law, condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including State terrorism, to which its own people and Government had fallen victim. Her delegation paid tribute to the victims of terrorism and expressed solidarity with the people and Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, which in recent years had suffered terrorist acts funded from abroad. Her Government firmly rejected the financing of terrorists and mercenaries by foreign powers and the acts of war and human rights violations committed by those powers in the name of the “war on terror”. It was not acceptable for them to condemn terrorism while manufacturing ever more sophisticated weapons, funding civil wars and carrying out acts of aggression against innocent and defenceless people.

64. Her Government condemned once again the imprisonment of Cuban anti-terrorist patriots in the United States of America and called for their immediate release. It also rejected the preparation of unilateral lists accusing States of supporting terrorists, and in particular condemned the inclusion in such lists of Cuba, a leader in the global fight against terrorism and an upholder of solidarity with the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean and the rest of the world. Double standards could not continue to be the norm in diplomacy and the international counter-terrorism effort; that effort must be coordinated and transparent and must be kept within the bounds of international law and international humanitarian law.

65. Terrorism could not and should not be associated with any particular religion, nationality, civilization, ethnic group or political ideology, nor could membership in such groups be used to justify any form of terrorism. As a firm defender of the legitimate struggle of peoples under foreign occupation or colonial domination to exercise their right of self-determination, her Government once again expressed its support for and solidarity with the Palestinian nation and people and emphasized that a clear distinction must be drawn between such struggles and acts of terrorism. Her delegation, like others, attached great importance to the conclusion of a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Such a convention should contain a definition of terrorism that covered all its forms, including State terrorism, which was one of the most common forms and was still committed with impunity in the majority

of cases. She called on Member States to reach a consensus solution by the end of the current session, which would contribute significantly to efforts to combat international terrorism.

66. **Ms. Salim** (Libya) said that Libya condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of its source or motives. Terrorism was a global phenomenon that should not be associated with any particular religion, race or society. A clear distinction should be drawn between acts of terrorism punishable by law and the legitimate struggle of peoples under foreign occupation for self-determination. Member States must intensify their cooperation to eliminate the increasing global threat of terrorism; in that regard, Libya was ready to play its part, as demonstrated by its accession to international and regional counter-terrorism instruments and its conclusion of a number of bilateral agreements. It was keen to participate in all international forums on combating terrorism and attached great importance to the implementation of the Global Strategy.

67. The Libyan Interim Government was sparing no effort to disrupt terrorist networks and combat smuggling in the Sahel region. In conjunction with other countries, it had recently hosted a workshop in Tripoli on promoting cooperation among the Member States of the region, together with the African Union, the League of Arab States and the European Union. An objective study should be conducted at the international level with a view to establishing a clear and accurate definition of terrorism. Her delegation also reiterated its call for a high-level conference on international terrorism to be convened under the auspices of the United Nations and hoped that Member States would redouble their efforts to conclude the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, since that would provide a legal framework for counter-terrorism efforts.

68. **Mr. Hernández Hernández** (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. Violations of the Charter of the United Nations, religious discrimination and the abandonment of peoples to poverty fed extremist ideologies and undermined the legitimacy of

efforts to combat terrorism and uphold peace, plurality and tolerance. It was unacceptable that, under the pretext of counter-terrorism, some States committed acts of aggression, interfered in the internal affairs of other States, including through support for regime change, and committed flagrant violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, such as torture, abduction, unlawful detention, forced disappearance and extrajudicial execution.

69. Cuba, as a party to all the international counter-terrorism instruments, reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening the central function of the United Nations in adopting measures and developing a legal framework to combat international terrorism. His Government was committed to the struggle against terrorism and reiterated its support for the adoption of a comprehensive convention to address existing legislative gaps. 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.

70. His Government categorically rejected the July 2013 decision by the United States State Department to include Cuba once more in a list of States alleged to be sponsoring international terrorism. Cuba had an impeccable record of combating terrorism and had never allowed, and would never allow, its territory to be used for carrying out, masterminding or financing terrorist acts against any State, including the United States.

71. Five Cubans had spent 15 years unjustly imprisoned in the United States of America, suffering cruel and degrading treatment, simply for defending the Cuban and United States people from terrorism. Despite broad international condemnation of their sentence, four of them were still in prison.

72. Meanwhile, the best-known terrorist in the Western hemisphere, Luis Posada Carriles, continued to walk free in Miami and New York, despite his involvement in terrorist acts such as the blowing-up of a Cubana de Aviación flight in which 73 people had perished and bomb attacks against hotels in the Cuban capital. It was common knowledge that hundreds of terrorist acts had been perpetrated against Cuba over a period of more than 50 years, causing 3,478 deaths and 2,099 cases of debilitating injury, while their families, after decades of suffering and loss, were still waiting for justice. The true terrorists should be prosecuted and

the men who had struggled to protect the people of Cuba and the United States from violent terrorist acts should be released.

73. **Mr. Aldahhak** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his country condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, irrespective of the motives behind it and the identity of the perpetrators. Terrorist acts could not be justified under any circumstances. They were criminal acts that violated international law and the Charter of the United Nations and undermined the stability, territorial integrity and development of States.

74. The Syrian Arab Republic had suffered from terrorism since the 1980s. It had called for a definition of terrorism and had worked to identify its causes and to establish an international legal framework to combat it. His delegation reaffirmed the importance of joint action by the international community to eliminate terrorism, which required an approach devoid of politicization, selectivity and double standards. In addition, all attempts to link terrorism to the struggle of peoples under foreign occupation to exercise their right of self-determination and obtain their independence, a right enshrined in international law and the Charter and a cornerstone of the existing international order, must be avoided.

75. The Syrian Arab Republic was currently facing a ferocious campaign of terrorist attacks by groups linked to Al-Qaida. Most of the perpetrators were foreign mercenaries and extremists who were conducting a proxy war on Syrian territory, targeting State institutions and infrastructure, civilians and even the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF). Those acts, carried out in the selfish interests of certain States, undermined stability and peace in his country and were clear examples of the terrorist acts which the international community had agreed to condemn. A number of United Nations reports had described the increase of activity in the Syrian Arab Republic by Al-Qaida and associated entities. Certain States continued to recruit and arm extremists and send them to his country in flagrant violation of international law and the principle of good neighbourliness, which prohibited States from providing assistance or refuge to the perpetrators of terrorist acts. The United Nations must take action to prevent such practices so that there could be a political solution to the Syrian crisis, based on dialogue among the Syrian people themselves. In the absence of such action, the foreign extremists would eventually move

on to other countries and undermine their peace and stability in turn.

76. The Syrian Arab Republic had signed and ratified 10 of the 13 international counter-terrorism instruments and was considering accession to the remaining three. It was making vigorous, internationally acknowledged efforts to oppose money-laundering and terrorism financing: indeed, its Combating Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Commission had joined the Egmont Group. His Government had adopted a number of legislative measures in keeping with the relevant international recommendations, including, in 2012, a law on counter-terrorism, which defined terrorism and established penalties for terrorist acts, and another in 2013 classifying kidnapping as a terrorist crime. His Government had also acceded to regional counter-terrorism conventions and had concluded a number of bilateral agreements in that area. It continued to honour its commitments despite violations by certain other parties in the region, and would continue its earnest approach to combating terrorism in keeping with its position of principle, the Charter of the United Nations and its international commitments.

77. Joint international efforts to counter terrorism would remain ineffectual so long as double standards were applied and a blind eye was turned to the State terrorism practiced by Israel daily in the occupied Syrian Golan and other occupied territories.

78. His delegation hoped that negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism — which, despite the flexibility evinced by some delegations, had still not been adopted — would be completed and expressed its appreciation for the Ad Hoc Committee's efforts in that regard.

79. His delegation reiterated its call for greater counter-terrorism cooperation and information exchange in order to cut off the supply of funds and arms to terrorist groups. It also called for action to prevent the use of the Internet and the media to coordinate terrorist crimes and recruit young people to the cause of terrorism. All States should honour their commitments in that regard; moreover, hatred among civilizations, cultures and religions should be rejected in favour of peaceful ways of resolving differences. In that connection, his delegation rejected any attempt to link terrorism to any religion, ethnic group or nationality.

80. **Mr. Kim Saeng** (Republic of Korea) said that the recent attacks in Nairobi and Peshawar were the latest stark reminders that terrorism remained a serious threat to international peace and security. His delegation condemned terrorism in all its forms; no cause, political or otherwise, could justify such criminal acts. Efforts to combat terrorism must be consistent with obligations defined under international law and fundamental values such as the protection of human rights and the rule of law. Since terrorist organizations were becoming ever more agile and were increasingly involved in other criminal activities, such as piracy, drug trafficking, kidnapping and the illicit arms trade, his delegation supported a comprehensive approach such as that taken by the Global Strategy.

81. His delegation commended the key role of the United Nations in leading the international fight against terrorism. As the current Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1540 \(2004\)](#), his delegation had been fully engaged with other important entities, such as the Counter-Terrorism Committee, its Executive Directorate and CTITF, in implementing the relevant Security Council resolutions and many other initiatives, including capacity-building. The General Assembly should make every effort to reach agreement on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. His delegation remained committed to working with others to that end. In addition, a high-level conference could contribute positively to the Organization's counter-terrorism efforts and provide an impetus for the negotiations on the draft convention.

82. His Government would maintain its efforts to strengthen international cooperation to combat terrorism, including through its continued support for capacity-building in developing countries and by hosting the Seoul Conference on Cyberspace on 17 and 18 October 2013, which would provide an opportunity to address the increasing use of information technology to incite and finance terrorist activities, recruit terrorists and spread extremism.

83. **Ms. Muthukumarana** (Sri Lanka) said that, despite all the efforts of the international community, terrorism continued to devastate communities around the world. She expressed sympathy for and solidarity with the Kenyan people following the recent attack in Nairobi, which, together with the continuing carnage in Iraq and the senseless attacks in Pakistan, were grim reminders of the need for greater international

cooperation to eradicate terrorism. No country was safe from it; indeed, Sri Lanka had experienced its horrors for almost three decades. Terrorism had no borders and did not respect nationality, religion or cultural heritage. Its root causes remained complex and it should not be combated primarily through military means. Moreover, it could not be associated with any particular ethnicity or religion.

84. She shared the disappointment of other delegations that no progress had been made on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism at the Ad Hoc Committee's sixteenth session in March. Her delegation welcomed the recommendation that the Sixth Committee should establish a working group at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, but the relevant process must start at the current session, so as to send a clear message that the daily carnage wreaked by terrorism would not be tolerated. The consolidated set of draft articles contained in annex I to the Ad Hoc Committee's report (A/68/37) would provide a convenient reference point, when work resumed, for the progress made so far. She also welcomed the inclusion in the report of a draft resolution aimed at addressing certain issues of concern. Like others, her delegation believed that the elements of the Coordinator's 2007 package constituted a viable option for reaching consensus.

85. Terrorist groups funded their activities through links with transnational organized crime and profited from human trafficking, the arms trade, money-laundering, credit card fraud and cybercrime. One of the main reasons for the early success of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in its three-decade-long terrorist campaign in Sri Lanka had been its extensive international networks, with links to other terrorist groups and organized crime. The conflict in Sri Lanka had now ended, but those networks continued to be active in a range of criminal activities.

86. Sri Lanka remained committed to the Global Strategy; it was also a party to 13 international counter-terrorism instruments and the SAARC instruments on mutual assistance on criminal matters and was an active participant in global efforts to counter the illegal movement of funds. It supported the work of the General Assembly and the Security Council in coordinating counter-terrorism efforts and establishing legal norms. She expressed appreciation to CTED for having organized several regional workshops on counter-terrorism and strengthening criminal justice,

which had benefited police officers, prosecutors and judges in South Asia.

87. **Mr. Hill** (United States of America) reiterated his delegation's condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and commitment to the common effort to end it. All terrorist acts, by whomever committed, were criminal, inhumane and unjustifiable, regardless of motivation. His delegation firmly supported the central role of the United Nations in coordinating efforts to combat terrorism and bolster the ability of States to prevent terrorist acts, as well as the efforts of the Global Counterterrorism Forum and other multilateral bodies aimed at developing practical tools to further the implementation of the United Nations counter-terrorism framework.

88. His delegation looked forward to the next review of the Global Strategy. It strongly welcomed the Organization's efforts to facilitate the promotion and protection of human rights and the rule of law in the context of counter-terrorism efforts, to recognize the role that victims could play in countering violent extremism, to improve border management and to target financial measures to counter terrorism. His Government had made voluntary contributions to CTITF in support of assistance and training initiatives.

89. The legal framework for combating terrorism was largely the product of the work of the Sixth Committee in elaborating 18 international instruments, the number of States parties to which was rising dramatically. Six further counter-terrorism instruments had also been developed to cover new and emerging threats involving civil aviation, maritime navigation and the protection of nuclear material. Only when they were widely ratified and fully implemented, however, would the work of the international community in that area be complete. His Government was advancing in its own efforts to ratify those instruments and he urged other States that had not yet done so to follow suit.

90. Despite the best efforts of the Coordinator and the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee, negotiations on the current proposals concerning the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism were still at an impasse. His delegation remained willing to work with other States to build on and enhance the international counter-terrorism framework and would listen carefully to the statements of other delegations as the Sixth Committee continued to deliberate on those challenging issues.

91. **Mr. Pham Quang Hieu** (Viet Nam) said that his Government shared the international community's serious concern at the rise of terrorism. Cooperation between States and international organizations was essential in order to bring to justice all those carrying out or inciting terrorist acts; in that effort, significant progress had been made in recent years, with the United Nations playing a central role. Counter-terrorism measures must respect the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the rule of law.

92. Viet Nam's recently adopted law on counter-terrorism, which would enter into force on 1 October 2013, set out a legal framework for improved efforts to combat terrorism and fostered Viet Nam's international cooperation in that regard. At the regional level, Viet Nam was working with other ASEAN countries to implement the ASEAN Counter-Terrorism Convention, which had entered into force in 2011. It had now been ratified by all ASEAN member States and was thus enhancing the region's strategic role in the global effort to combat terrorism. In March 2013, Viet Nam had hosted the eleventh ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime, which had reviewed the implementation of the Forum's work plan. Over the past year, Viet Nam had also participated in counter-terrorism cooperation projects and workshops in the context of ASEAN, including the ASEAN-Japan Dialogue on Counter-Terrorism and ASEAN cooperation with the Russian Federation and CTED, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

93. Viet Nam was a party to 10 international counter-terrorism instruments and was considering accession to another three. In addition, at the eighth plenary session of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, held in Mexico City in May 2013, his Government had reaffirmed its support for the activities and programmes carried out as part of that Initiative. It also supported the leading role of the United Nations in combating terrorism and encouraged Member States to finalize and adopt the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. It looked forward to working more closely with CTITF to improve implementation of the Global Strategy, particularly in South-East Asia, including Viet Nam. It was also ready to cooperate with the specialized agencies of the United Nations in implementing technical assistance

and capacity-building projects and strengthening the national legal framework for counter-terrorism.

94. **Mr. Al Hammadi** (United Arab Emirates) expressed condolences to the victims of the recent terrorist attack in Nairobi. Despite its continuing efforts, the international community continued to witness increasing and ever-graver forms of terrorism and organized crime, particularly in the Middle East, which was currently suffering unprecedented sectarian strife. Terrorist acts all had the same type of motive, which did not relate to any particular nationality, culture or religion, but rather to hatred and extremism. His delegation called on the international community to continue its efforts to limit the spread of extremism and to implement the Global Strategy. At the same time, it called on all States to support political efforts to defuse existing conflicts, promote tolerance, peace and a rapprochement of religions and cultures, implement the principles of justice and international law and encourage respect for human rights, all of which were important means of addressing the root causes of terrorism. States should also shoulder the responsibility for preventing acts of provocation against religious and cultural symbols.

95. His delegation hoped that States would show the flexibility needed to reach agreement on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and reiterated its call for a United-Nations-sponsored international conference in order to arrive at a clear definition of terrorism that distinguished it from the right of peoples to self-determination under the Charter and international law and to define the root causes of the spread of terrorism. The international community should provide increased technical and other assistance to developing countries in that regard.

96. The United Arab Emirates was continuing to develop its policies, measures and legislation to combat terrorism and associated activities, such as money-laundering and arms trafficking. It had also increased coordination with international and regional mechanisms to prevent the use of its territory, including its airspace and territorial waters, for terrorist activities. It had strengthened its port and border control procedures to prevent the transfer of sensitive materials and supported international efforts in that regard. It had also established the Centre of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism in Abu Dhabi, where a training course for high-ranking officials on counter-terrorism had recently been held. His delegation hoped

that international efforts to combat terrorism would eventually lead to a world of justice, equality and freedom for all and peaceful coexistence between all peoples.

97. **Ms. Zarrouk Boumiza** (Tunisia) said that her Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The global nature of the threat required a concerted response from the international community. The problems of the African Sahel, such as trafficking in arms and drugs and the proliferation of terrorist acts and other forms of transnational crime, constituted a threat not only to that region, but to international peace and security. Her Government attached particular importance to the restoration of security, stability and development in the region and fully supported the United Nations integrated strategy for the Sahel.

98. Her Government had always been committed to confronting the threat of terrorism; it had developed a comprehensive national strategy in accordance with the international and regional conventions and bilateral agreements to which Tunisia was a party. It had also adopted a number of laws criminalizing all activities that facilitated terrorism and was in the process of updating its legislation on counter-terrorism and money-laundering in order to ensure equitable justice and respect for physical integrity, in line with its international human rights obligations. Counter-terrorism measures and human rights protection were not contradictory objectives but mutually reinforcing ones. In that regard, Tunisia had concluded a number of bilateral counter-terrorism agreements with neighbouring countries, relating in particular to the assessment of terrorist threats.

99. Tunisia was a party to all the regional counter-terrorism conventions: the Arab Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and the Convention of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on Combating International Terrorism. It was also a party to most of the international counter-terrorism instruments and was working to fulfil its obligations under the Global Strategy.

100. Terrorism was not exclusive to any one race, religion or nationality. Moreover, terrorists' methods were constantly evolving and their use of new communication technologies was increasing, as was

cybercrime. Any counter-terrorism strategy, whether at the national, regional or international level, must take account of that trend. In addition, security measures alone were not sufficient. The persistence of political injustice, the failure to resolve certain conflicts, economic disparities, exclusion and the defamation of religions helped to feed hatred and extremism and encouraged the indoctrination and recruitment of terrorists. Greater global efforts were required in order to ensure balanced implementation of the four pillars of the Global Strategy.

101. Lastly, she drew attention to the importance of capacity-building in Member States in order to enable them to combat terrorism, money-laundering and the proliferation of weapons and to address the increasing use of new communication technologies by terrorists.

102. **Mr. Cabactulan** (Philippines) reiterated in the strongest terms his Government's condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Efforts to combat terrorism must take place at the national, bilateral and multilateral levels, through organizations such as the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and ASEAN and instruments such as the Global Strategy. Of particular importance was the work of UNODC, CTITF and CTED in capacity-building and the exchange of information and best practices, especially among security and law enforcement agencies.

103. Intercultural and interfaith dialogue was one of the primary ways to combat terrorism. Respect for human dignity and understanding and tolerance between and among peoples were of crucial importance and required the engagement of all stakeholders.

104. His delegation affirmed the role of the United Nations in strengthening the international legal architecture by promoting the rule of law, respect for human rights and effective criminal justice systems. His Government, through its Anti-Money Laundering Council, contributed to global efforts to prevent the financing of terrorism through money-laundering in cooperation with its international partners, including FATF, and within the framework of its landmark law on terrorism, the Human Security Act. It had also enacted new laws on the prevention of money-laundering and terrorist financing, which required banks and financial institutions to report transactions involving funds with possible links to terrorists. It was providing more legal tools and training in counter-terrorism for law enforcement and judicial authorities, while remaining



cognizant of the need to respect civil liberties and human rights.

105. Despite 16 years of negotiations, the international community had still not reached consensus on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Political resolve was needed in order to conclude the negotiations. The proposed high-level conference on international terrorism should be considered separately from the conclusion of the draft convention. Such a conference could help to overcome the current impasse, arrive at a definition of terrorism and address all the relevant issues, including the root causes of terrorism.

*The meeting rose at 6 p.m.*