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## Sixth Committee

### Summary record of the 1st meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 7 October 2014, at 10 a.m.

*Chair:* Mr. Manongi. . . . . (United Republic of Tanzania)

## Contents

Tribute to the memory of Alejandra Quezada, representative of Chile in the Sixth Committee

Statement by the Legal Counsel

Organization of work

Agenda item 107: Measures to eliminate international terrorism

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.*

**Tribute to the memory of Alejandra Quezada, representative of Chile in the Sixth Committee**

1. **Ms. Millicay** (Argentina) paid tribute to the memory of Alejandra Quezada.
2. *At the invitation of the Chair, the members of the Committee observed a minute of silence.*

**Statement by the Legal Counsel**

3. **Mr. Soares** (Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, the Legal Counsel) said that the Sixth Committee had an impressive list of achievements, especially in the fields of United Nations privileges and immunities, criminal law, environmental matters, and the law of treaties. It had played a significant role in the conclusion of many conventions, including the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and had been responsible for the adoption by the General Assembly of a number of non-legally binding declarations.

4. The Committee's ambitious programme of work at the current session covered many issues of crucial importance to the international community, including the elimination of international terrorism. It was essential that the working group to be established with a view to finalizing the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism should make progress. He urged delegations to work to that end and thus achieve a goal shared by the members of the international community and capable of having a significant impact on global efforts to eliminate international terrorism.

5. He commended the Committee for its contributions to the codification and progressive development of international law. Over the years, it had been an important forum in which legal experts of different legal systems and traditions could work together to make the world safer, fairer and more law-abiding for the sake of future generations. In that task he pledged the continued support of the Office of Legal Affairs.

**Organization of work (A/C.6/69/1; A/C.6/69/L.1)**

6. **The Chair** drew attention to the allocation of agenda items to the Committee, as contained in document A/C.6/69/1, and to the note by the

Secretariat entitled "Organization of work" (A/C.6/69/L.1), in particular paragraphs 7 to 9 concerning the establishment of working groups.

7. With regard to agenda item 83, "The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction", he 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, to continue its consideration of the item, and that the working group would be open to all States Members of the United Nations and relevant observers to the General Assembly.

8. *It was so decided.*

9. **The Chair**, referring to agenda item 107, "Measures to eliminate international terrorism", 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. Perera (Sri Lanka), 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.

10. *It was so decided.*

11. **The Chair** drew attention to the proposed timetable for the Committee's work, contained in paragraphs 3 to 6 of the note by the Secretariat entitled "Organization of work" (A/C.6/69/L.1). 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 14 November 2014, all draft resolutions with financial implications must be submitted to the Fifth Committee by 31 October 2014, except for those relating to agenda items scheduled to be considered after that date. He took it that the Committee wished to proceed accordingly.

12. *It was so decided.*

13. **The Chair** stressed that the Committee was required to make full use of conference resources and

facilities. Although in the past three sessions it had achieved utilization rates above the established benchmark figure of 80 per cent, during the most recent session it had nevertheless lost more than 14 hours because of meetings starting late or ending early.

14. 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.

15. *It was so decided.*

16. **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.

17. Following the Committee's successful implementation of the Integrated Sustainable PaperSmart Services (PaperSmart) meetings arrangement at the past two sessions of the General Assembly, the PaperSmart portal would again be available at the current session.

**Agenda item 107: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/68/37 and A/69/209)**

18. **The Chair**, drawing attention to the Secretary-General's report on measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/69/209) and to the report of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 (A/68/37), said that the need for substantive progress on the outstanding issues surrounding the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism could not be more pressing. He urged delegations to engage in discussions at the current session with a view to overcoming the outstanding differences.

19. **Mr. Dehghani** (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. Such acts endangered the territorial integrity and stability of States and had adverse consequences for economic and social development.

20. Terrorism 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 of suspects and intrusion on 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 Non-Aligned 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. It also firmly rejected the unilateral elaboration of lists that accused States of supporting terrorism, a practice that was inconsistent with international law and in itself constituted a form of psychological and political terrorism.

21. 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 themselves 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.

22. 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 Non-Aligned 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.

23. The Movement reaffirmed its support for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. 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 and called on all States to cooperate actively in addressing the problem.

24. **Ms. O'Brien** (Australia), speaking also on behalf of Canada and New Zealand, said that international terrorism remained one of the most serious threats to global peace and security. Civilian populations around the world faced increasingly ruthless, well-armed and well-resourced terrorist organizations, a threat that was compounded by rising number of foreign terrorist fighters, or radicalized extremists returning home with the capacity to commit acts of terror against their fellow citizens. Preventing and responding to international terrorism required a consistent, comprehensive and coordinated global response based on common goals.

25. Australia, Canada and New Zealand continued to support the work of the Ad Hoc Committee in elaborating the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Although the remaining differences on the draft related to a small number of issues, positions were strongly held. Discussion was needed as to which mode of consideration — the working group, the Ad Hoc Committee, or yet another forum — was the most appropriate and efficient way to make progress on the draft convention.

26. The recently adopted Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) on the issue of foreign terrorist fighters was a welcome development. Australia, Canada and

New Zealand were committed to working with regional and international partners to address that threat and to counter violent extremism and radicalization. In that regard, communities, religious leaders, young people and front-line professionals were best placed to disengage individuals from violence. In view of the obligation under resolution 2178 (2014) for Member States to establish serious criminal offences in relation to those who travelled overseas to participate in international terrorism; those who provided financial assistance to those individuals; and those who organized, facilitated or recruited foreign terrorist fighters, Governments needed to increase cooperation and information sharing between their relevant domestic agencies to break up the networks of fundraising, recruitment and travel relating to international terrorism. Further cooperation was also crucial to help build domestic capacities, particularly in those States most affected by international terrorism.

27. The Global Counterterrorism Forum was an important mechanism in that regard. Specifically, The Hague-Marrakech Memorandum on Good Practices for a More Effective Response to the FTF Phenomenon provided practical recommendations to help States fulfil their international obligations in combating the foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon. Member States could also avail themselves of other guidance provided by the Forum, including the Algiers Memorandum on Good Practices on Preventing and Denying the Benefits of Kidnapping for Ransom by Terrorists and other good practice guides on criminal justice, prisons, providing support to victims of terrorism and community-oriented policing.

28. It was crucial to stop the practice of paying ransoms, which served to finance terrorism, encouraged further kidnappings and ultimately undermined the work done to suppress terrorist organizations. Member States must act decisively to prevent terrorists' access to resources: the effectiveness of measures such as those mentioned in Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and the Al-Qaida sanctions regime depended on the commitment and capacity of Member States to implement them. The sanctions regime was designed as a tool for all States to hinder the activities of individuals and entities linked to Al-Qaida. The listing of 14 individuals and 2 entities on 23 September 2014 demonstrated the usefulness of the regime in tackling new and emerging threats, such as those posed by the group known as the

Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and those who recruited and facilitated the recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters.

29. **Mr. Elhamamy** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), said that OIC condemned all terrorist acts, which ran counter to the true principles of Islam. Prominent Muslim scholars from around the world had recently sent an open letter to the fighters and followers of the so-called Islamic State refuting its terrorist philosophy point by point. 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. While noting recent statements by the President of the United States of America, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and others dissociating Islam from terrorist organizations, OIC strongly condemned attempts by some politicians to link Islam with terrorism out of selfish interests: such attempts played into the hands of terrorists and constituted advocacy of religious hatred, discrimination and hostility against Muslims. It was important to promote dialogue, understanding and cooperation among religions, cultures and civilizations for peace and harmony in the world; all international and regional initiatives to that end were welcome.

30. 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, a distinction clearly established in international law. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy should be updated and reviewed on a regular basis and implemented in a balanced manner. Member States should work collectively to ban the payment of ransom to terrorist groups, one of the main sources of terrorist financing. It was important to help States to fulfil their obligations under United Nations resolutions by increasing resources for United Nations entities

entrusted with capacity-building and by enhancing bilateral technical assistance and technology transfer.

31. OIC remained committed to negotiations on the draft 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. In addition, OIC continued to call for the convening of a high-level conference under United Nations auspices in order to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism.

32. All Member States were encouraged to avail themselves of the opportunities presented by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, which had begun working, as part of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Office in New York, to foster international cooperation and to strengthen the Organization's capacity-building efforts.

33. **Mr. Phansourivong** (Lao People's Democratic Republic), speaking on behalf of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that terrorism not only undermined international peace and security, but also hindered social and economic development and created a climate of fear. Terrorism in all of its forms and manifestations was unjustifiable, and the perpetrators of such acts must be brought to justice. The complex nature of international terrorism required a comprehensive and collective response from the international community. ASEAN member States supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy; nevertheless, much remained to be done to strengthen implementation of the Strategy.

34. At the fourth biennial review of the Global Strategy in June 2014, the international community had affirmed its resolve to combat terrorism. ASEAN appreciated the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and other United

Nations bodies in providing assistance to Member States and expressed the hope that such efforts would continue.

35. ASEAN continued to engage in regional and international collective efforts to combat international terrorism. On 26 September 2014, ASEAN ministers for foreign affairs had issued a statement on the rise of violence and brutality committed by terrorist and extremist organizations in Iraq and Syria, in which they had expressed support for Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014) and renewed their commitment to work with the international community to fight against terrorism. The ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism served as the regional framework for ASEAN cooperation in combating terrorism and as a complement to the United Nations Global Strategy, international counter-terrorism instruments and the relevant United Nations resolutions. The ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime was the main ASEAN body dealing with the issue of terrorism, and also oversaw the monitoring and implementation of the Convention on Counter-Terrorism.

36. At the ASEAN Summit, held in May 2014, leaders of ASEAN countries had reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening regional cooperation on combating terrorism and transnational crime and encouraged relevant sectoral bodies to enhance their cooperation in addressing the root causes of terrorism; in countering, preventing and suppressing terrorist networks; in protecting the people of ASEAN; and in reducing the vulnerability of critical infrastructure against terrorist attacks. The Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime of the ASEAN Regional Forum, held in Bali in April 2014, had focused on a review of the Regional Forum workplan, the updated version of which included topics such as cybersecurity, cyberterrorism and counter-radicalization.

37. Terrorism should 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 draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, and called on all Member States to address the outstanding issues in a constructive manner.

38. **Mr. Zagaynov** (Russian Federation), speaking on behalf of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) countries (China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) said that the SCO countries reiterated their condemnation of 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, SCO member States advocated strengthening the central coordinating role of the United Nations, which was uniquely suited for that purpose.

39. 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 the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, the Security Council and its counter-terrorism-related committees.

40. 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.

41. At the fourteenth SCO Summit, held in Dushanbe in September 2014, the leaders of SCO countries had stressed that terrorism continued to have a negative impact on the stability and security of the region and had reaffirmed their determination to strengthen joint actions in the fight against terrorism, extremism, drug trafficking and organized crime and to promote stability and security in the region. In that regard, SCO member States continued to implement the SCO 2013-2015 programme to combat terrorism, separatism and extremism. SCO observer States and dialogue partners were also involved in that process. The SCO countries would strive continuously to improve the operation of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure, which was being reformed to better address the range of emerging challenges and threats related to terrorism. SCO planned to further enhance the strategies and

activities of the Structure by strengthening its partnership with relevant United Nations agencies.

42. 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 of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) from Afghanistan by the end of 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.

43. **Ms. Cujo** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Armenia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the uprising of ISIL demonstrated that the world was not free from the scourge of terrorism. The group's threats to peace and security extended far beyond the borders of Syria, Iraq or the Middle East and affected all countries. The European Union firmly condemned the appalling, indiscriminate killings and human rights abuses perpetrated by ISIL and other terrorist organizations, in particular against religious and ethnic minorities and the most vulnerable groups. Those responsible for such crimes would be held to account.

44. More than ever, the international community must respond by condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Member States should also redouble efforts to work together within the framework of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which had been reviewed in June 2014 and continued to be central to addressing the evolving trends of the terrorist phenomenon in an integrated and balanced way.

45. The member countries of the European Union based their counter-terrorism efforts on the principles

of criminal justice while also recognizing the rule of law and the protection of human rights as essential components. States Members of the United Nations must ensure that any counter-terrorism measures complied with all their obligations under international law, in particular human rights law, refugee law and humanitarian law. In that respect, the recent founding of the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law in Malta was to be commended. The European Union called on Member States and relevant United Nations entities to promote measures to ensure solidarity with and assistance to victims and welcomed the recently launched United Nations Victims of Terrorism Support Portal, which had been financed by the Government of Spain.

46. In view of the intensification of the terrorist threat, efforts to prevent radicalization and recruitment to terrorism should be further enhanced. The European Union had revised and was implementing its strategy in that regard, including by establishing a knowledge hub to collate and disseminate best practices. Efforts to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and defeat the ideology of extremism also remained crucial and would require not only greater cooperation among States and international and regional organizations in sharing information and best practices but also the involvement of civil society.

47. The phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters posed particular challenges that required global and multidisciplinary efforts. In that respect, the Union welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014); the latter in particular contained the strong message that countering violent extremism was an essential element in responding to the foreign terrorist fighter threat in a long-term and sustainable manner. The European Union also commended recent initiatives of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, including the adoption of The Hague-Marrakesh Memorandum on Good Practices for a More Effective Response to the FTF Phenomenon; the launch of a working group on the issue; and its work with the Hedayah Centre and the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund, to which the European Union would contribute. In 2014, the European Union had held a number of meetings with the Mediterranean States to deal with the problem of foreign fighters and prevent spillover from terrorist activities in Iraq and Syria. From 25 to 27 November 2014, the European Union, together with the Counter-

Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and Switzerland, would be holding a regional conference on foreign terrorist fighters which would bring together experts and practitioners from Europe, the Middle East and North Africa.

48. The European Union had developed a multi-pronged strategy to counter the financing of terrorism which integrated issues such as the analysis of evolving threats; the development of best practices on implementing counter-terrorism financing and anti-money-laundering standards, including those of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF); and the implementation of targeted sanctions regimes. The Union and its member States had also concentrated on cooperation with the private sector and the sharing of financial intelligence and information on investigations.

49. Kidnapping for ransom was an increasingly common tactic employed by some terrorist groups to raise funds for their activities. The Council of the European Union had adopted its Conclusions on Kidnap for Ransom on 23 June 2014 in order to build on and facilitate the implementation of Security Council resolution 2133 (2014). Member States must ensure that their commitments had practical effect by taking a proactive stance against kidnapping for ransom, identifying best practices to counter such activities and thoroughly tracking financial flows, including those from offshore jurisdictions.

50. The European Union was committed to fostering a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to counter-terrorism. It would continue to support capacity-building projects bilaterally and with regional and international partners, involving civil society and enhancing local ownership of the process. It would continue to support the United Nations offices dealing with counter-terrorism and would encourage transparent and cooperative work that avoided duplication of efforts. The Union commended the unwavering efforts of the Ombudsperson of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) to promote due process and fair and clear procedures in the sanctions regimes.

51. At the regional level, the European Union was pursuing comprehensive counter-terrorism strategies with its partners, in particular in the Sahel region, the Horn of Africa, Yemen and Pakistan. Those strategies, which reflected its long-term engagement on the issue

and its commitment to ensuring national ownership and participation, increasingly recognized the potential offered by religious leaders and other community leaders in countering radicalization, violent extremism and terrorism at early stages. In response to the deteriorating security situation in Nigeria and its effects on neighbouring countries, the European Union was implementing a programme to support the Nigerian authorities in counter-terrorism efforts that centred on criminal justice while also fostering respect for human rights and international law.

52. The delegation of the European Union called on all States Members of the United Nations to ratify and implement all relevant United Nations legal instruments relating to terrorism. It recognized Member States' efforts towards reaching agreement on a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and remained committed to its successful conclusion.

53. **Ms. Guillén-Grillo** (Costa Rica), speaking on behalf of Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that the terrorist threat had undergone a dramatic evolution in recent years, with violent extremists committing acts of murder and mutilation and displacing thousands from their homes. More than ever before, terrorism constituted a serious threat to the stability of individual States, entire regions and the international community as a whole. In addition to the physical harm and psychological trauma among those directly affected, terrorism produced a general sense of societal insecurity and distress. CELAC strongly condemned terrorism in all of its forms and manifestations and stressed the need to bring perpetrators to justice. It reaffirmed its commitment to combating terrorism and reiterated the need to increase awareness in regard to protection of the victims.

54. Terrorism could be contained effectively only through enhanced international cooperation, with the United Nations at the centre of the effort. CELAC firmly supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and had participated in its fourth review in June 2014, during which Member States had underscored the need for ongoing efforts to achieve an integrated and balanced implementation of its four pillars.

55. CELAC member countries were deeply concerned about the growing number of international recruits to terrorist organizations, including foreign



terrorist fighters and the threat they posed to the countries of origin, transit and destination. It called on all Member States to respond to that threat through greater cooperation and appropriate measures. The Global Strategy should be regularly updated in response to the evolving challenges and threats. Since cooperation among States was one of the pillars of the fight against terrorism, CELAC encouraged Member States to contribute to the Secretary-General's annual report on measures to eliminate international terrorism.

56. Measures taken to combat terrorist acts would be successful and garner international support only if they complied 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 member States were deeply concerned about the harmful effects that State surveillance and the interception of communications, including extraterritorial communications, could have on the exercise of human rights. Any measures that interfered with or restricted the right to privacy must be adequately regulated by law and subject to effective oversight and appropriate redress, including through judicial review, in order to guarantee that such actions were not arbitrary.

57. CELAC rejected the unilateral elaboration of blacklists that accused States of supporting and sponsoring international terrorism, a practice that was inconsistent with international law. In particular, it deplored the inclusion of any CELAC member State in such lists and, in that regard, drew attention to its Special Communiqué adopted on 5 June 2013.

58. CELAC countries had suffered terrorist acts that had tragically taken the lives of innocent civilians. The Community strongly condemned those attacks and the circumstances that had enabled those responsible to evade justice. In that regard, all States were urged to comply without delay with their obligations under international law and to cooperate actively in order to bring perpetrators to justice and prevent impunity.

59. CELAC welcomed the steps taken by the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) to ensure fairer and clearer sanctions-related procedures, in particular the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsperson, which had significantly improved the fairness and

transparency of the delisting process. The position of Ombudsperson should be made permanent and due process should continue to be emphasized within the Security Council sanctions regimes.

60. It was essential to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, while recognizing that they could not justify terrorist acts. Such conditions included prolonged unresolved conflicts; the dehumanization of terrorist victims; the absence of the rule of law; violations of human rights; ethnic, national and religious discrimination; political exclusion; socioeconomic marginalization; and lack of good governance.

61. Member States should foster judicial cooperation and the exchange of information among their financial and police intelligence bodies in order to better prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism. United Nations entities were also encouraged to cooperate with Member States and continue to provide them with assistance, upon request, in implementing their international obligations in that respect. CELAC welcomed in particular the counter-terrorism technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

62. The CELAC group of countries remained committed to facilitating the prompt conclusion of an agreement on a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and resolving the pending issues, in particular the legal definition and the scope of the terrorist acts to be covered by the convention. All Member States were urged to cooperate and participate in the spirit of flexibility during the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 in order to move the negotiations forward.

63. **Ms. Aching** (Trinidad and Tobago), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that multilateral action agreed to under the aegis of the United Nations was the most credible and legitimate way to counter terrorism, one of the most serious challenges facing the international community and one which threatened not only the future of affected States, but also good governance and the sustainable development of all States. Terrorism ran counter to the principles at the heart of the Charter of the United Nations, including respect for human rights and the rule of law and tolerance among peoples and nations.

In that context, CARICOM recognized that all acts of terrorism were unjustifiable and were flagrant violations of the principles of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

64. CARICOM expressed deep concern over recent international terrorist activities which had undermined the fabric of the affected societies and inflicted a deep sense of insecurity on civilian populations, including women and children. The Community reiterated its unequivocal and strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Every act of terrorism should be condemned by the international community and the perpetrators brought to justice. No State was immune from terrorism, including those in the Caribbean region, where justice had yet to be served for the terrorist hijacking and bombing of an aircraft more than three decades ago. Given its awareness of the threats posed to the collective economic, political, environmental and human security of the entire global system, the Community's commitment to the elimination of international terrorism remained a key component of the regional security agenda.

65. In accordance with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, CARICOM remained firmly committed to addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, building state capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law. Several CARICOM countries had enacted and were implementing legislation to prevent and counter the financing of acts of terrorism and terrorist groups, in line with existing international obligations under multilateral conventions and Security Council resolutions. As the methods employed by terrorists became more sophisticated, CARICOM welcomed further support and assistance from the United Nations system in order to improve States' institutional capacity to implement the Global Strategy and play a more active role in the global fight against terrorism.

66. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/119, counter-terrorism measures must comply with international law, in particular human rights law, refugee law and humanitarian law. Strategies adopted outside the parameters of international law could potentially blur the line between measures taken to fight terrorism and those that promote it. CARICOM supported the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on activities of the United Nations system in

implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/68/841) and emphasized that worldwide solidarity was crucial to combating terrorism.

67. A global strategy should include the finalization of negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Too much time had been squandered on that important matter owing to the failure of a few States to resolve their political differences and agree on, for example, the definition of terrorism. The only beneficiaries of the protracted failure to adopt a draft convention had been the international criminals who continued to carry out their crimes with impunity. A convention that had the approval of all Member States would be a formidable weapon in the battle against international terrorism. Among other things, it would facilitate measures relating to the prosecution of terrorists and the strengthening of the institutional capacity of States, especially small States.

68. CARICOM valued seminars and other events aimed at sensitizing and enhancing the capacity of States to deal effectively with all facets of terrorism and in particular welcomed the workshops organized by Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. It also recognized the benefits of regional coordination in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004); the CARICOM secretariat and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean had co-hosted workshops geared towards enhancing the capacity of Caribbean States to implement the provisions of that resolution aimed at preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

69. While CARICOM did not view the holding of a high-level conference on terrorism to be a necessary prelude to the finalization of the text of the draft convention, such a conference could provide a useful opportunity for Member States to interact with representatives of the various counter-terrorism entities and other actors on ways of enhancing implementation of relevant resolutions and treaties.

70. **Mr. Spresov** (Belarus) said that his delegation supported all depoliticized efforts towards implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, international counter-terrorism agreements and relevant Security Council resolutions. He welcomed the fourth biennial review of the Global

Strategy, the conclusions of which were more practical than those contained in the outcome of the third review (General Assembly resolution 66/282). The fourth review also reflected new developments in international terrorism, such as foreign terrorist fighters and the use of drones. The work of the Sixth Committee and its working group was essential to better understanding of such issues in the context of international law.

71. His Government's efforts to combat terrorism had been commended during the recent country visit by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate. He welcomed the balanced, constructive approach of the Executive Directorate in preparing its report on the visit and said that his Government stood ready to further strengthen international counter-terrorism initiatives.

72. No country was safe from the terrorist threat. Consequently, counter-terrorism activities must focus on the complementary efforts of Governments, United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and regional collective security mechanisms.

73. The lack of progress on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism was cause for concern. While the terrorist acts which continued to be perpetrated in the Middle East and other regions might not, considered separately, carry the same weight as the acts that had led to the elaboration of the key international conventions relating to terrorism, the overall trend required an immediate response, including measures of an international law nature. Belarus called on all interested States to display maximum flexibility in negotiations and to demonstrate their commitment to combating terrorism. His delegation stood ready to continue work on the draft convention in any forum likely to facilitate the resolution of remaining differences. Although his delegation was not opposed in principle to the holding of an international high-level conference on international terrorism, it was important, in order to avoid duplicating the review of the Global Strategy, to conclude the draft convention before such a conference was convened.

74. **Mr. Bristol** (Nigeria) said that terrorism constituted one of the most serious and deadliest threats to international peace and security. Its debilitating effects, including the erosion of law and

order, the destabilization of structures of governance and the contraction of economic growth, had adversely affected the development and stability of many countries. The recent terrorist attacks, in particular those in Africa, were a reminder that terrorism was a threat to countries both large and small and underscored the need for comprehensive regional and international responses. In that regard, his delegation supported the establishment of the working group in the Sixth Committee to finalize the process of drafting a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and to discuss the convening of a high-level conference on the issue under the auspices of the United Nations. It looked forward to the outcome of the meetings of the working group.

75. Over the past several months Nigeria had faced an upsurge in the activities of the terrorist group Boko Haram. The group indiscriminately targeted both Muslim and Christian civilians, all places of worship, recreational centres and media establishments, and had even attacked a United Nations building in 2011. Those acts had strengthened the Government's resolve to fight the scourge of terrorism through closer cooperation with neighbouring States and the international community and through the roll-out of a new action plan in March 2014 to address the terrorist cycle, from radicalization to rehabilitation. The strategy was based on national experience as well as aspects of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the United Nations to help States and subregional and regional entities in Africa in fighting terrorism (S/2014/9). The plan involved all tiers of Government and consisted of four streams of action. The first was the deradicalization of convicted terrorist suspects awaiting trial and those who might be released through court orders or as a result of Government decisions arising from ongoing engagement with repentant suspects. The second was directed at galvanizing Nigerian society against terrorism through familial, cultural, religious and national value systems. The third entailed building capacity to communicate national values and institutionalize such capability through the military and law enforcement. The fourth stream of action, taking into account the economic root causes of terrorism, involved the economic revitalization of six states in northeast Nigeria.

76. In order to bolster its national initiatives and create a regional basis to ensure their success, an understanding had been reached with the Governments

of Nigeria's contiguous neighbouring States to share intelligence and establish a Regional Intelligence Fusion Unit in Abuja. At the international level, his Government had added Boko Haram; its leader, Abubakar Shekau; and the splinter group, Ansaru, to the United Nations Al-Qaida Sanctions List.

77. His Government remained committed to working closely with the United Nations counter-terrorism entities. It also noted with satisfaction the role played by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre in the fight against terrorism and the synergy developing between the Centre and other entities coordinated by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. His delegation expressed its appreciation for the generous donation by the King of Saudi Arabia to United Nations counter-terrorism efforts.

78. Counter-terrorism activities must take into account cyberthreats, which could cause a mass disruption in business communications, manufacturing, service delivery and the workings of Governments. Every cyberattack, regardless of its target, posed a global threat owing to the interconnectivity of digital infrastructure and networks and the interdependent nature of national and regional economies. It was clear that the war against terrorism on all frontiers could only be achieved if all Member States complied fully with their obligations under United Nations resolutions and regional conventions relating to terrorism and its financing

79. **Ms. Al Meqbali** (United Arab Emirates) said that while the Middle East, North African and Sahel regions had been most directly affected by recent brutal terrorist acts, the threat of terrorism affected all countries. In particular, foreign terrorist fighters constituted a threat to international security and stability and to the future of humanity as a whole. Her Government condemned terrorism in all of its forms and manifestations, and, in particular, the savage crimes of the organization known as ISIL, which had exploited religion to propagate its own violent extremism and attract young recruits from all over the world. ISIL had become an organized army wielding lethal weapons and committing acts of terrorism across large expanses of land, including murder, rape, kidnapping, trafficking in women and girls, arson and displacement of populations. Her delegation vigorously condemned those acts and called on the international community to develop a comprehensive strategy to put

an end to the activities of ISIL and other terrorist groups and bring the perpetrators to justice.

80. The United Arab Emirates had been dedicated to the counter-terrorism effort for decades; it had enacted and strengthened relevant national legislation, ratified 13 international conventions relating to terrorism and established mechanisms to prevent the use of the country's territory, air space and territorial waters for terrorist purposes. In 2014, a law had been adopted which set out severe penalties for perpetrators of terrorist acts. A national counter-terrorism committee had also been established to monitor implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions. There were laws in place to criminalize terrorism, incitement to terrorism and the transfer of weapons of mass destruction. A study was under way to develop methods to prevent the use of social media for terrorist recruitment. In addition, mechanisms to counter money-laundering, arms and drug trafficking, and other transnational crimes with possible ties to terrorism had been enhanced. The United Arab Emirates had joined the Global Counterterrorism Forum and strengthened its partnerships within that framework. The Centre of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism in Abu Dhabi had also been operating for several years. The United Arab Emirates was an open, multicultural society that promoted tolerance, religious freedom and harmony between religions and civilizations. Those values contributed to respect for justice and human rights, which were critical to resolving the conflicts that led to terrorism and extremism.

81. Her delegation reiterated its call for an international conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, in order to formulate a clear definition of terrorism, which should be distinguished from the right of peoples to struggle for self-determination. It was also important to support negotiations towards a comprehensive counter-terrorism convention taking into consideration the principles of international humanitarian law.

82. **Mr. Hermida Castillo** (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. As a firm defender of the legitimate struggle of peoples under foreign occupation or colonial domination to exercise their right of self-determination, his Government once again expressed its support for and

solidarity with the Palestinian nation and people. The Security Council must fulfil its obligations once and for all and demand that Israel end its policies and practices of foreign occupation in order to pave the way for a peaceful two-State solution, on the basis of the pre-1967 borders and with East Jerusalem as the capital of the independent State of Palestine.

83. His Government expressed its unconditional support for the Syrian Government and people in their struggle against international terrorism and in their efforts to protect Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity. A political solution should be negotiated between the Syrian parties; foreign intervention in the conflict, including the financing of and provision of weapons to terrorist groups, must end. It was regrettable that in the face of various recent conflicts, rather than promoting dialogue and negotiation, the member States of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) had taken unilateral decisions, measures and actions outside the United Nations framework and in violation of international law, including air strikes against the territories of sovereign States and the provision of financing to terrorist groups. Those policies had led to loss of life and displacement of communities, generating a humanitarian crisis with unpredictable consequences. His Government, being committed to the peaceful and inclusive resolution of conflicts, rejected such policies, which served to stoke rather than resolve conflicts, and the imposition of unilateral economic sanctions. No Member State could claim the right to use force or the threat of force in the conduct of international relations. The United Nations should be the primary body responsible for ensuring world peace on the basis of dialogue and political negotiations.

84. His 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 terrorism, and in particular condemned the inclusion on 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. Rather than sending armies with sophisticated weapons abroad, its Government sent doctors to assist other countries in emergency situations. 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.

85. His 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, in the majority of cases, was still committed with impunity.

86. The States of Latin American and Caribbean had declared their region a zone of peace; that achievement was the result of a process of political, economic, social and cultural integration that had respected the diversity of the region while emphasizing its unity.

87. **Mr. Dowdall** (United Kingdom) said that the international community's response to terrorism should remain anchored in preventive measures, respect for human rights and respect for the rule of law. In that regard, countering violent extremism and supporting economic and social development were key elements, as it was those who lived in an environment of political instability, conflict and economic strife who were most affected by the scourge of terrorism.

88. The rise of the group known as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) was an alarming development in the international terrorist threat. The people of Iraq and Syria had borne witness to numerous atrocities. Two American journalists and two British aid workers had also been brutally murdered, almost certainly by a foreign terrorist fighter from the United Kingdom. That was stark evidence that ISIL and organizations such as the Al-Nusrah Front were recruiting new fighters from all over the world, thus increasing their potential to carry out atrocities in all regions. The international community must be agile, responsive and collaborative in the face of that threat. In that regard, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom had called for the establishment of a United Nations special representative on extremism to focus on international efforts to counter the ideologies of violent extremism.

89. The international community should also remain focused on disrupting the financing of terrorist groups. Despite its extensive assets, ISIL depended heavily on income generation for its activities. Security Council resolution 2170 (2014) made clear that direct and indirect trade with ISIL, the Al-Nusrah Front or groups

with links to Al-Qaida constituted financial support for those entities. The international community must suppress the market for stolen oil, tackle the illicit trade in antiquities and sanction those who traded with and raised funds for such groups. It was also necessary to break the vicious cycle whereby ransoms from kidnappings strengthened terrorist groups and created the incentive for additional kidnappings.

90. Member States must also take action in response to the unprecedented number of individuals travelling to conflict zones to fight with terrorist groups. In that regard, Security Council resolution 2178 (2014), which had been sponsored by an overwhelming majority of Member States, called for the disruption of travel by foreign terrorist fighters and their prosecution. The resolution recognized the impact of violent extremism while also drawing attention to the need to prevent the radicalization of potential foreign fighters and rehabilitate those who returned to their home countries.

91. In order to fulfil their important role in confronting the terrorist threat, United Nations entities must coordinate and share information. If the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, a centre of analytical expertise, and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, a centre of capacity-building expertise, agreed upon common priorities and action plans, the United Nations system would have the potential to deliver effective support to the most vulnerable regions and countries.

92. **Mr. Koncke** (Uruguay) said that the final report on the visit of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate to Uruguay in November 2012 indicated that his country's counter-terrorism efforts were on track, although there were steps it could take to update its legislation, tighten border controls, link its immigration databases with those of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and strengthen measures to monitor and criminalize the financing of terrorism. The Executive Directorate had conducted a follow-up visit in March 2014 to facilitate technical cooperation requests. The Government's close cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee would benefit the international community as a whole, given the transnational nature of terrorism and the need for international solutions based on cooperation of all States.

93. The global proceeds of organized crime amounted to US\$ 2 trillion annually, according to estimates by

the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; furthermore, assets from illicit activities were a major source of terrorist financing. Uruguay was therefore convinced of the need to combat the financing of terrorism with the greatest determination, in all possible areas and with all tools available and had acted accordingly in its role as a member of the South American Financial Action Task Force (GAFISUD) and during its presidency pro tempore of the Task Force. The work of GAFISUD and its development as a regional body demonstrated the commitment at regional and subregional levels to combating terrorism and related crimes.

94. His delegation was committed to working with other delegations to strengthen the system for combating international terrorism in all its manifestations through the implementation of the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It was deeply concerned over the recent surge in terrorist groups, including their international recruitment activities and their ruthless, savage and obscene media broadcasts of executions, which only served to exacerbate hatred around the world. It called for those issues to be addressed through cooperation among Member States.

95. The only outstanding issues surrounding the draft comprehensive convention were the definition of international terrorism and the scope of the acts to be covered. While all delegations would need to make further efforts to reach an agreement, it was to be hoped that work on the draft comprehensive convention could be concluded at the current session of the General Assembly.

96. **Ms. Al-Thani** (Qatar) said that over the past year the international community had witnessed an unprecedented increase in the growth of transnational terrorist organizations. The international community must respond through greater cooperation, including initiatives to address the root causes of terrorism, and by expediting an agreement on the draft convention on international terrorism, which was needed more than ever before. The draft convention should include a definition of terrorism that did not make reference to any religion, race or culture; asserted the commitment of the international community to cooperate in the fight against terrorism; and drew a distinction between terrorism and legitimate resistance to foreign occupation, self-defence and the right of people under occupation to self-determination. Her delegation

supported the holding of an international conference aimed at formulating such a definition.

97. Recent events had demonstrated that by repressing peoples who aspired to freedom, dignity and social justice, dictatorial regimes had merely created an enabling environment for terrorist organizations, thus twice victimizing citizens. Linking terrorism with particular religions, social groups or political affiliations was unacceptable, as it only served to help terrorist organizations to brainwash and recruit young people. Terrorist acts of murder and torture were in fact being committed by extremists of all religious backgrounds.

98. Qatar condemned terrorism in all of its forms and manifestations. There was a need to denounce all brutal acts against civilians for political purposes, whether killings and intimidation or the bombardment of densely populated areas, including schools, hospitals and shelters, acts that were among the worst forms of terrorism.

99. Counter-terrorism was a major priority of Qatar's State policy. Activities at the international and national levels focused on implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and on consolidating cooperation with international and regional organizations. The Government was also committed to implementing recently ratified international instruments and continuing its cooperation with United Nations entities. The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate had visited the country in January 2014 and had met with the relevant authorities. In addition, the Executive Directorate had held a workshop in Doha in December 2013 on comprehensive integrated strategies to fight terrorism. Her Government continued to cooperate with the Global Counterterrorism Forum and had hosted a workshop in March 2014 on promoting community partnerships to counter violent extremism. It had also provided \$5 million for the establishment of a global fund to counter violent extremism.

100. At the national level, in September 2014, Qatar had enacted new legislation aimed at banning the use of technology for terrorist purposes and preventing the abuse of charity organizations for terrorist financing. Preparations were nearly complete for the thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Doha in 2015.

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*