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- Chair:* Mr. Charles (Trinidad and Tobago)
- later:* Mr. Kravik (Vice-Chair) (Norway)
- later:* Mr. Charles (Chair) (Trinidad and Tobago)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.05 a.m.

Agenda item 108: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*) (A/70/211)

1. **Mr. Andanje** (Kenya) said that, as a country that had been a victim of terrorist acts, Kenya was unequivocally committed to combating terrorism in all its aspects. The international community should increase its efforts to eliminate terrorism in a coordinated manner. It was unfortunate that most initiatives thus far had failed to focus on the deeper causes of terrorism, such as a Government's loss of control over its territory and institutions of governance.

2. Kenya continued to take measures aimed at strengthening counter-terrorism efforts. In addition to setting up a National Counter-Terrorism Centre, his Government had developed a national strategy to counter violent extremism, in order to address the factors that made Kenyan young people and society more susceptible to that ideology. Taking as its basis inputs from the Regional Conference on Countering Violent Extremism held in Nairobi in June 2015, the national strategy had three major components: preventive action, curative measures and community resilience initiatives.

3. The Government of Kenya had also taken steps to disrupt sources of funding for terrorists and their networks. The efforts of the Kenyan Financial Reporting Centre had recently begun to bear fruit, with the freezing of the accounts of 85 individuals and entities suspected of financing and providing other material support to terrorists. His Government continued to work closely with local, regional and international partners to counter terrorism and violent extremism and reaffirmed its commitment to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and other related international instruments.

4. The United Nations had a central role in combating international terrorism. His delegation welcomed the Organization's invaluable efforts towards drafting a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and called on all Member States to exercise flexibility in negotiating the text of such a convention, with the hope that it could be successfully concluded at the current session of the General Assembly. Kenya had ratified all the major

international terrorism conventions and urged other States to do the same.

5. **Mr. Medrek** (Morocco), reiterating his Government's condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, said that terrorism should not be associated with any particular religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. Despite the international community's efforts, terrorism, and in particular the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, continued to spread. Terrorists used all available means, including new technology, the Internet and social networks, to maximize recruitment of young men and women throughout the world and incite them to violent, extremist acts. The adoption of Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) had been a relevant response to the unprecedented rise of terrorism in the Sahel-Saharan and North African regions, where terrorist acts continued to be perpetrated by Boko Haram and Al-Qaida, and in the Middle East, where Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) controlled vast swathes of territory in Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and Libya, financing its terrorist activities through, inter alia, illicit trafficking in human beings, oil, and cultural goods.

6. No country was safe from the threat of foreign terrorist fighters; increasing border security and boosting information-sharing was therefore essential in order to combat the scourge of terrorism more effectively. Morocco had hosted several meetings, both regional and international, on border security; most recently, it had held an inaugural conference on border security in collaboration with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and the Global Counterterrorism Forum. It had also been designated co-chair of the Global Counterterrorism Forum working group on foreign terrorist fighters.

7. Nationally, Morocco had improved security governance and updated its legal counter-terrorism framework; as a result, several terrorist cells had been dismantled and a number of weapons destined for terrorist purposes had been seized. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2178 (2014), his Government had also adopted a law aimed at impeding the travel of young people to conflict areas by criminalizing such activity. Other important steps taken by his Government included the adoption of an initiative to promote human development, thus preventing exclusion and vulnerability, and the restructuring and reform of religious institutions in Morocco.

8. **Mr. Elshenawy** (Egypt) said that the international community should develop an innovative, comprehensive and non-selective approach to terrorism, which posed an unprecedented and growing threat. It was essential to focus on confronting the terrorist groups' extremist ideology, which helped them to attract new recruits. Egyptian religious institutions, particularly Al-Azhar University and Dar al-Ifta al-Misriyyah, had a crucial role to play in that connection. Action should be taken to bring terrorists and their supporters to justice and to prevent the provision of funds, weapons and safe haven to terrorists. At the same time, terrorism must not be associated with any religion, culture or people. The latter point had been underscored by speakers at the high-level debate of the General Assembly, held on 1 October 2015, on the theme "Maintenance of international peace and security".

9. The international community should work to ensure implementation of its counter-terrorism resolutions, particularly resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2214 (2015). United Nations agencies should foster the effective implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and provide support for capacity-building in Member States, subject to the principle of national ownership. Egypt was prepared to share its expertise and commended the work of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, which had received generous funding from Saudi Arabia.

10. His delegation hoped that it would be possible to adopt a draft comprehensive convention on counter-terrorism at the current session. The draft convention should be based on consensus and should include a clear and precise definition of terrorism. An international conference on counter-terrorism should be convened as a matter of urgency; counter-terrorism efforts were becoming increasingly disparate and in need of harmonization. His delegation looked forward to the formulation of the Secretary-General's plan of action on preventing violent extremism, which should be based on in-depth consultations with regional groups.

11. Egypt had taken a range of counter-terrorism measures at the legal, operational, ideological and social levels with the participation of all components of society, and cooperated closely with other States and regional and international organizations for that purpose.

12. **Mr. Dowdall** (United Kingdom) said that his delegation welcomed the international focus on countering violent extremism at the current session of the General Assembly and the momentum created by the White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism, especially in the context of the fight against ISIL. While emphasizing the need for inclusive political settlements in both the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq, his delegation encouraged support for the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL in those countries and for his Government's work with partners to contain its spread.

13. Collective international efforts must consider the ideologies that lay behind violent extremism and address both the drivers and symptoms of such extremism. Governments must counter extremist propaganda before it took root, promote mainstream voices and build more integrated societies in which young people could feel that they belonged. Moreover, a comprehensive strategy to combat terrorism and counter violent extremism required the involvement of all levels of government, including police, prosecutors, mental health and social services and educational institutions. It also required the involvement of all levels of society, including partnerships with communities to expose the hateful beliefs of extremists and with the private sector, including Internet service providers, who could reduce online material that incited to terrorism. His delegation urged Member States to take specific domestic measures in that regard.

14. Internationally, his delegation called on the United Nations to lead a robust international response to the increased threat from violent extremism. Such a response must include a powerful counter-narrative to extremist ideology and propaganda. It should increase understanding of the drivers of radicalization, while seeking to identify the best solutions through capacity-building interventions. Furthermore, an international response should address the root causes of extremism, including through conflict resolution and stabilization activity in the Middle East and Africa.

15. His delegation looked forward to the launch of the United Nations plan of action on preventing violent extremism and hoped that it would be ambitious and seek to promote a comprehensive approach to countering violent extremism, including counter-terrorism, security, law enforcement and humanitarian approaches. The plan of action should not be understood

as securitization of aid; instead, it should address the strategic drivers that created instability and frustrated development and seek to achieve mutually reinforcing objectives and complementary interventions, in order to ensure that programmes to counter violent extremism helped to build peaceful and stable societies. In that respect, the action plan and the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 16, should be seen as mutually reinforcing.

16. **Mr. Ibrahim** (Malaysia) said that his Government strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed, and irrespective of the pretext given. Clearly, the atrocities committed by ISIL were antithetical to the true teachings of Islam. No nation was immune to the threat of international terrorism; it was therefore vitally important for the international community to present a united front against it. Counter-terrorism efforts should be comprehensive, addressing ideological, financial and security aspects: specifically, they should include measures to counter the narratives and address the root causes that could be manipulated to attract support for terrorism, cut the flow of funding to terrorist groups and prevent the physical recruitment and movement of supporters.

17. Nationally, Malaysia had enhanced its domestic legal framework aimed at countering terrorism and safeguarding national security. Among other measures, the recently adopted Prevention of Terrorism Act, which contained rehabilitation and deradicalization components, provided a preventive mechanism enabling authorities to detain suspected individuals linked to Al-Qaida and ISIL for investigation. The Prime Minister of Malaysia, with the support of counterparts in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), had advocated for a global movement of moderates to censure and reject extremism and to support moderation.

18. He commended the efforts of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 for its negotiation and finalization of a series of instruments to provide a legal framework for international cooperation in combating international terrorism. His delegation also appreciated its efforts and those of the Working Group on measures to eliminate international terrorism to finalize the draft of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Member States should seek to define clearly the objective of such an instrument in order to resolve

any remaining differences. It was also important to take stock of the existing international instruments relevant to international terrorism and to consider how the existing counter-terrorism framework might be improved.

19. It was important to distinguish clearly between acts of terrorism and legitimate acts of resistance to foreign aggression and the struggle of peoples under colonial or foreign domination, as provided for under the Charter of the United Nations and recognized principles of international law. Furthermore, measures against international terrorism should not infringe upon the sovereignty, independence or territorial integrity of States. Terrorism should not be associated with any race, culture or religion. To ignore such principles would only heighten the marginalization of communities along political, religious or ethnic lines and, in turn, increase the vulnerability of such communities to recruitment by terrorist groups.

20. **Ms. Zarrouk Boumiza** (Tunisia) said that Tunisia was deeply concerned at the atrocities that continued to be committed in the Middle East by terrorist groups motivated by extremist ideologies. The growing number of foreign terrorist fighters recruited by such groups, relying heavily on globalized information technology, not only intensified and prolonged conflicts but constituted a considerable threat to their countries of origin. The international community must respond firmly by increasing cooperation and information-sharing in the areas of border security, combating money-laundering and prosecution of terrorists. Tunisia strongly supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and welcomed the adoption of Security Council 2178 (2014), which provided Member States with practical measures to better tackle the terrorist threat together.

21. Tunisia had been able to overcome the difficulties of the transition to democracy by adopting a new constitution and holding free and transparent legislative and presidential elections in 2014. Her country's efforts had been recognized recently with the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet. Nevertheless, Tunisia continued to face a number of challenges, including terrorism, in view of the deteriorating security situation in the region. Her Government sought to respond urgently and efficiently to the challenge by strengthening the legislative, institutional and operational framework of its counter-terrorism efforts.

Thus, in July 2015, it had adopted a new counter-terrorism law that criminalized, inter alia, travel to conflict areas, in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2178 (2014). It was also working with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) to finalize a national counter-terrorism strategy that would incorporate security, social, economic, cultural, media, educational and religious aspects in order to prevent and counter terrorism. Furthermore, the Government of Tunisia had set up and put into operation both a legal centre and a security centre specializing in counter-terrorism.

22. At the regional level, Tunisia had concluded a number of bilateral agreements on issues such as assessing threats and stemming terrorist financing. It had ratified all relevant regional conventions, including the Arab Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, the Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and the Convention of the Organization of the Islamic Conference 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. It was seeking to increase its cooperation with United Nations organizations in order to build its counter-terrorism capacities. In that connection, her delegation welcomed the impetus given to cooperation efforts between Tunisia and CTED following the latter's follow-up visit to Tunisia in March 2015.

23. **Mr. Bouah-Kamon** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that the eradication of terrorism had become a major challenge for the international community, which needed to devise a coordinated strategy to tackle the increasingly sophisticated methods of terrorists. Although Côte d'Ivoire had not suffered terrorist attacks on its soil, the heinous acts of Boko Haram and other groups in neighbouring countries had caused it to increase preventive measures. Côte d'Ivoire had ratified most of the international counter-terrorism instruments and had recently adopted a counter-terrorism law in order to ensure the country's safety and security, while taking into account the need to observe human rights and public freedoms. The new law targeted anyone who — with the intention of provoking terror; intimidating the population; promoting a political, religious or ideological cause; or constraining the government, an organization or an institution to adopt

or reject a position or to act according to certain principles — committed or threatened to commit an act that took the life of or gravely injured another person. The same applied to anyone who recruited one or more persons to become part of an organized criminal group with a view to participating in the commission of terrorist acts. Lastly, anyone affiliated with an association or who participated in a group that planned or committed terrorist acts fell under the scope of the law.

24. It was not possible to eradicate terrorism without the strong involvement of the international community. His delegation therefore called for the adoption of an international counter-terrorism convention under the auspices of the United Nations. It also reiterated the appeal of the Economic Community of West African States to the international community to support efforts to combat terrorism and counter violent extremism in the Sahel.

25. **Mr. Sukhee** (Mongolia) said that Mongolia condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations but stressed that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, race, culture or ethnic group. International terrorism required a coordinated global response, including the promotion of dialogue among civilizations and raising public awareness. His delegation supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which should be updated regularly while maintaining balance among its four pillars. The Organization should play a central role in coordinating counter-terrorism efforts, including the provision of technical assistance.

26. Mongolia was a party to most of the international counter-terrorism instruments and had strengthened its domestic regime, most recently through amendments to legislation on the combating of terrorism, money-laundering and terrorist financing and changes to its Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure. It had established an integrated border management system that relied on inter-agency cooperation and coordination. Mongolia issued machine-readable passports and used an advanced passenger information system for checking against watch lists. His Government continued to welcome the visits of representatives of the Counter-Terrorism Committee to Mongolia and its recommendations on implementation of Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005).

27. It was important to safeguard human rights while fighting terrorism: with that in mind, Mongolia had established a national human rights commission and maintained a constructive dialogue with the United Nations human rights mechanisms.

28. His delegation commended the Organization's leading role in combating international terrorism and strongly supported the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre in assisting Member States to implement the Global Strategy. Member States should take further steps to fully implement Security Council resolutions on countering terrorism; they should contribute actively to the exchange of operational information on traffic in arms and improve coordination at the national, regional and international levels.

29. **Mr. Barriga** (Liechtenstein) said that his Government reaffirmed its commitment to the international fight against terrorism in all its aspects, including through cooperation with the United Nations, and would continue to promote the effectiveness and legitimacy of terrorism-related sanctions regimes. His delegation called on the Security Council to further enhance fair and clear procedures and to apply them to other sanctions regimes, as appropriate.

30. The United Nations stood at the centre of global efforts to combat terrorism. The respective roles of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Secretariat were complementary and mutually reinforcing. The Sixth Committee had also made important contributions, in particular by drafting numerous international conventions in the area of counter-terrorism. Somewhat unfairly, the Committee was currently better known for that which it had failed to achieve thus far: agreement on a general convention on counter-terrorism that would fill the gaps between the various sectoral conventions. Since the credibility of the Committee was in question, it should do its utmost at the current session to make progress on the draft comprehensive convention. Such efforts would require flexibility and political will from those delegations that had not yet expressed support for the Coordinator's compromise proposal. Liechtenstein had supported that proposal from the beginning, as it struck a balance between the entrenched positions of some delegations, and ensured that the Convention would not jeopardize the applicable rules of international law. Failing agreement, the Committee should acknowledge

that it was unable to perform the task and allow the work to continue in another forum.

31. **Ms. Nang Phy Sin Than Myint** (Myanmar) said that terrorism continued to inflict suffering in many parts of the world, including in her own country. A global threat demanded a global response. Her Government had taken a series of practical measures to combat terrorism at the national, regional and international levels. It had strengthened its legislation and institutions by, inter alia, criminalizing various forms of terrorism and the financing of terrorism, establishing a Financial Intelligence Unit to combat money-laundering and providing for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. Myanmar had recently invited legal experts from the International Monetary Fund and other financial experts to discuss more effective implementation of counter-terrorism legislation. Its law enforcement agencies and international experts continued to share experience and legal opinions in order to identify legal texts requiring alignment with international standards. With a view to tackling the conditions that often led to terrorism, her country's drug enforcement agencies had stepped up measures related to operations against narcotic drugs and related crimes.

32. At the regional level, Myanmar had signed bilateral agreements on the control of narcotic drugs with a number of countries. It had also set up special traffic police units to identify vehicles that might be associated with illegal activities and terrorist acts and had upgraded its aviation security system. The Myanmar police and law enforcement agencies cooperated closely with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). Her Government had acceded to the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism, the primary framework for combating terrorism in the region and, more recently, Myanmar had participated in the special ASEAN ministerial meeting to address the threat of radicalization and violent extremists.

33. Internationally, Myanmar was a party to 11 international counter-terrorism instruments and had recently ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction. It also cooperated with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) on a regular basis. Cooperation between all countries was crucial to combat the global threats of terrorism and violent

extremism. National capacities therefore needed to be strengthened; in that regard, Myanmar would welcome technical and financial assistance and expert advice on law enforcement, immigration and border control, in order to strengthen its national institutions.

34. *Mr. Kravik (Norway), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

35. **Mr. Alsaadi** (United Arab Emirates) said that his country strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, particularly the terrorist acts committed by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Al-Qaida, Hizbullah, Ansar Allah, Al-Shabaab and other groups active in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Yemen. Those groups used social media to deceive vulnerable persons, especially youth, into committing acts of terrorism. They claimed to enforce the sharia, using the pure Islamic faith as a cover to spread their brand of violent extremism. The threat was not confined to the Middle East, and it required a comprehensive response.

36. The United Arab Emirates had long put in place robust counter-terrorism legislation. 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. In addition, mechanisms to counter money-laundering, arms and drug trafficking, and other transnational crimes with possible ties to terrorism had been enhanced. A law had recently been adopted criminalizing the defamation of religion and discrimination on the basis of religion, sectarian affiliation or ethnicity. Policies were in place to prevent radicalization of youth and foster a culture of moderation and dialogue.

37. The United Arab Emirates had joined the Global Counterterrorism Forum and strengthened its partnerships within that framework. The country hosted the Hedayah centre to combat violent extremism, the Muslim Council of Elders and the Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies. In cooperation with the United States of America, it had established the Sawab Center, which used social media to counter the propaganda of ISIL.

38. His delegation stressed the need to reach a final agreement on a comprehensive anti-terrorism convention and reiterated its position that an international conference should be convened under the auspices of the United Nations to establish a clear

definition of terrorism. Lastly, it wished to underscore the importance of engaging small and medium-sized States in peace, security and development efforts.

39. **Mr. Tuy** (Cambodia) said that his country had strengthened its counter-terrorism cooperation and information-sharing with a range of States and participated in relevant regional and international forums. Cambodia was a party to the Convention of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on Counter-Terrorism and all the relevant major conventions and protocols of the United Nations and had enacted a multitude of laws and regulations that had enabled it to achieve some remarkable successes in preventing and suppressing terrorism and transnational crimes. It was currently engaged in the development of a policy to promote the participation of villagers and citizens' organizations, including political parties, in efforts to ensure security and safety in villages and communes throughout the country. In addition to implementing the legal reforms and building the operational capacity of the national police and other law enforcement agencies, the Government had focused on inter-agency cooperation at the national level and had put in place a number of national committees in the areas of counter-terrorism; chemical, nuclear, biological and radioactive materials; arms control; and maritime security.

40. Capacity-building by all Member States was a core element of the global counter-terrorism effort. Cambodia, for its part, was committed to increased cooperation with other Member States and international agencies. His Government was pursuing the following counter-terrorism objectives: sharing information with other States; following up developments in terrorist activities; implementing international instruments; and raising public awareness of the terrorist threat. His delegation urged the United Nations to expedite the delivery of technical assistance in order to promote information exchange and provide counter-terrorism training programmes within the ASEAN framework.

41. *Mr. Charles (Trinidad and Tobago) resumed the Chair.*

42. **Mr. Plasai** (Thailand) said that his delegation reiterated its firm condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The fight against terrorism called for international cooperation from all nations. Over the previous decade, his country had modernized

its legislation to respond to new forms of terrorism and passed laws to transpose into domestic law the provisions of the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation. As a party to the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism, Thailand worked closely with fellow ASEAN member States to suppress all forms of terrorism. Thailand had ratified nine of the international counter-terrorism instruments and was taking all the necessary steps to become a party to the remaining ones.

43. His delegation welcomed the adoption of Security Council resolution 2199 (2015), which was aimed at preventing terrorist groups in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic from raising funds through external donations, kidnap for ransom or the trade in oil and antiquities. His Government supported the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and other bodies in capacity-building and international coordination and stood ready to translate the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy into practice. It welcomed the special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee held in Madrid on 28 July 2015, which had dealt with the topic of foreign terrorist fighters, and looked forward to hosting the forthcoming CTED subregional workshops from 19 to 23 October 2015.

44. In accordance with Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), Thailand was committed to implementing measures to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The country was reviewing its domestic legislation with a view to acceding to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. It was an active member of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism.

45. His delegation urged all Member States to redouble their efforts to finalize the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which should contain a clear and precise definition of terrorism, without a reference to “State terrorism”. A finalized draft of the convention was a prerequisite for the convening of a high-level conference under United Nations auspices. Member States should also take action to tackle the root causes of terrorism by promoting tolerance and interfaith dialogue.

46. **Mr. Ruiz Blanco** (Colombia) said that, despite the progress noted in the report of the Secretary-General on measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/70/211), terrorist attacks continued to be committed around the world. The recent reprehensible acts in Turkey and Chad had once again demonstrated terrorists’ utter disregard for human rights, the rule of law and the values shared by the whole of humanity. There was no justification for terrorism in any of its forms or manifestations, under any circumstances or for any motive or cause. Terrorism could not and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group, and such attributions should not be used to justify terrorism. In order to avoid any subsequent resurgence of the terrorist threat, all counter-terrorism measures should fully respect international standards and the rule of law. There was an urgent need to build educated, fair and inclusive societies that were not based on a culture of violence, so that there was no place for terrorism.

47. His Government reaffirmed its commitment to work with the international community to build a safer world, free from the threat of terrorism. In that regard, it stood ready to share the successes achieved following the internal conflict in Colombia, especially in relation to reinsertion and reconciliation processes. Furthermore, the international community must continue to work to sever the close links between terrorism and transnational organized crime, including illicit arms trafficking, trafficking in persons, the illegal trafficking of migrants, and money-laundering.

48. Efforts to combat terrorism would not be fully successful without the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism to complement the existing instruments. The Working Group on measures to eliminate international terrorism and the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 had made significant progress over the years in elaborating a draft international convention. The proposal presented in the Ad Hoc Committee’s most recent report (A/68/37) provided a good basis for negotiating the text of the comprehensive convention, a process that had already taken too long. The draft convention should be finalized during the seventieth session of the General Assembly.

49. **Mr. Medina Mejías** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that his Government condemned international terrorism in all its forms and

manifestations, including acts in which States were directly or indirectly involved. In order to combat terrorism effectively, no distinctions could be made between “good” and “bad” terrorists. There was only one kind of terrorism, which must be unequivocally prevented, countered and eliminated. The international response to terrorism must take account of the conditions conducive to its spread; however, such conditions did not justify any terrorist act.

50. Foreign occupation and military aggression against sovereign countries and peoples tended to breed violence, extremism and intolerance. Joint efforts were needed to promote a negotiated political solution to persistent armed conflicts, which undermined international peace and security. The military interventions conducted by major powers in Iraq and Libya, in 2003 and 2011 respectively, with the aim of overthrowing the Governments of sovereign countries, had led to the subsequent collapse of State institutions, creating fertile conditions for the growth of such terrorist groups as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Al-Qaida and Ansar al-Sharia and establishing a breeding ground for violent extremism, illicit arms trafficking, and inflows of huge numbers of foreign terrorist fighters.

51. The impact of the violence unleashed by ISIL had been felt by the civilian population, in particular ethnic and religious minorities, and vulnerable groups such as women and children, whose human rights had been systematically and deliberately violated, in contravention of international humanitarian law and human rights law. The actions of ISIL clearly constituted war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, and those responsible must be brought to justice. The barbaric terrorist acts of ISIL, the Nusrah Front and the Army of Conquest in Syria, with the support of foreign powers, were aimed at overthrowing the legitimate Government of President Bashar Al-Assad. The international community therefore needed to support the Syrian Government in the head-on battle being waged against terrorism in the Syrian Arab Republic.

52. In order to combat cross-border terrorism, including the complex phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, comprehensive and robust measures must be taken, pursuant to Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015) and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, to prevent the financing of terrorism, transfer of arms, and sales of oil and

antiquities. Enhanced cooperation among all Member States was also needed to address, with respect for sovereignty, human rights and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, the use of information and communication technologies for the furtherance of terrorist acts and terrorism-related acts of incitement, recruitment, financing and planning. His Government strictly applied the standards established under public international law for the purposes of preventing, combating and eliminating such acts. In that regard, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had signed and ratified the main international counter-terrorism conventions, at both the global and the regional levels, and complied strictly with the obligations assumed therein. His Government had submitted reports on the required implementation follow-up, had reformed its legislation in order to monitor terrorism financing, chemical weapons and nuclear materials, and had strengthened its institutional capacity by participating in workshops organized by the United Nations.

53. His Government had established programmes of assistance to victims of terrorism and their families; developed a comprehensive database on biological incidents; promoted the participation of civil society and established partnerships with the private sector to prevent terrorist attacks on particularly vulnerable targets; explored innovative mechanisms to address the growing threat of Internet use for terrorist purposes; modernized customs and border control systems and improved travel document security to prevent the movement of terrorists and trafficking in illicit materials; and improved cooperation to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

54. Although links between terrorists and criminal organizations had been identified, terrorism and organized crime were two distinct phenomena that should be analysed individually and addressed separately. All counter-terrorism efforts must comply strictly with the Charter of the United Nations, take account of all relevant legal and political instruments and ensure respect for the privacy and dignity of persons. The establishment of a permanent and fully independent position of Ombudsperson of the Security Council sanctions committees would ensure full transparency in efforts to safeguard the rule of law and due process.

55. International cooperation was an essential counter-terrorism tool. In that regard, his Government was still awaiting the extradition of the international

terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, who was responsible for blowing up a Cubana de Aviación airliner on 6 October 1976, killing 74 innocent civilians. Moreover, counter-terrorism efforts should never bypass international law. For that reason, his delegation had opposed the arbitrary and politically motivated list of alleged State sponsors of terrorism and unilateral sanctions that violated the spirit and purpose of the Charter of the United Nations.

56. As the entity responsible for coordinating international counter-terrorism efforts, the United Nations, through the General Assembly, should remain at the centre of the debate on measures to combat international terrorism. His delegation commended the work of the Ad Hoc Committee and remained committed to continuing negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. It would make every effort to ensure that a unanimous political and legal definition of the relevant terms and concepts, including a definition of terrorism, could be reached.

57. His delegation urged all members of the international community to respect the sovereignty of States and the principles governing peaceful coexistence within the framework of the United Nations system, and consequently, to reject foreign interventionism, as well as all acts and conduct that fuelled violence and disregard for the social peace and legitimate constitutional order of States. It strongly condemned such interference, and called for plurality and ideological, political and economic diversity, within the context of the self-determination of peoples.

58. **Ms. Onanga** (Gabon) said that no cause, ideology or religion could justify the atrocities committed in recent days in the north of Cameroon, in western Chad and in Ankara. Her Government condemned such heinous acts, whose perpetrators showed no respect for human life and values, and expressed its condolences to the Governments and peoples affected by them.

59. In adopting the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Member States had demonstrated their commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. In that regard, Gabon had ratified almost all the United Nations instruments that formed the legal framework for international efforts to combat terrorism.

60. While all countries were subject to the scourge of terrorism, they did not all have equal capacity to combat the sophisticated methods employed by terrorists. Strengthened cooperation was therefore needed to maximize the effectiveness of global counter-terrorism efforts, particularly with regard to the exchange of information and the monitoring of sources of terrorist financing. Her delegation called for capacity-building assistance for developing countries that took account of their specific needs and the threats they faced.

61. Gabon had recently hosted three counter-terrorism workshops in Libreville. An event held from 28 to 30 January 2014, within the framework of the development of an integrated strategy to fight against terrorism and the proliferation of arms in Central Africa had ended with the adoption of a series of measures to deal with the threat of terrorism and the risks associated with links between terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, drug trafficking, money-laundering and transnational organized crime. An expert workshop on the fight against terrorist financing and money-laundering for Central African States, held from 19 to 21 May 2015, had enabled her Government to adopt important security, financial, tax and customs measures to strengthen its mechanisms for preventing and punishing the financing of terrorism, in cooperation with other countries in the region. Lastly, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, in cooperation with the Gabonese Government, had held an expert workshop on the development of an integrated strategy to fight against terrorism and the proliferation of arms in Central Africa, from 29 September to 2 October 2015.

62. Her delegation reiterated its call for the Committee to reach consensus on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The slowness of the negotiations to date stood in regrettable contrast to the upsurge in terrorist acts.

63. **Ms. Mansour** (Observer for the State of Palestine), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that notwithstanding the comments made by the representative of the occupying Power, Israeli terrorists had been able to commit the most horrific crimes against Palestinian civilians, including children, with impunity. On 31 July 2015, a group of Israeli terrorist settlers had surrounded and set fire to the home of the Dawabsha family outside Nablus. An 18 month-old infant, Ali, had been killed, and his parents Sa'd and

Riham had subsequently died of their wounds. The only survivor had been a four year-old boy, Ahmad, who remained in hospital with extensive burns. The Israeli Prime Minister had described that crime as a terrorist act and claimed to know the identity of the terrorists; yet no legal action had been taken. Unless the occupying Power took genuine action, its commitment to combating terrorism would be mere lip-service and many more Palestinian civilians would die. There must be justice for little Ali, his family and every Palestinian victim of Israeli terror and the illegal occupation of the State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem.

64. **Mr. Heumann** (Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the brutal terrorist campaign against his people had escalated over the previous 24 hours. Four more attacks had taken place across Israel. A shooting and stabbing attack on a bus in Jerusalem had left two Israeli citizens dead and 15 wounded. In a separate attack, minutes later, a Palestinian terrorist had driven his car into a crowd and attacked the wounded with a butcher's knife, killing one person and injuring another. In the city of Ra'anana, two attacks had taken place within an hour. One Palestinian terrorist had stabbed a man at a bus stop, and another had stabbed four people outside the city hospital. In the meantime, rockets continued to be fired at Israel indiscriminately from the Gaza Strip. That wave of terrorism was a result of systematic and malicious campaign of incitement and glorification on the part of both Hamas and the Palestinian Authority.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.