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Chair: Mr. Charles (Trinidad and Tobago)

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Organization of work (A/C.6/70/L.1/Rev.1; A/C.6/70/1; A/C.6/70/1/Add.1)

1. **The Chair** drew attention to the allocation of agenda items to the Committee, as contained in documents A/C.6/70/1 and A/C.6/70/1/Add.1, and to the note by the Secretariat entitled “Organization of work” (A/C.6/70/L.1/Rev.1), in particular paragraphs 7 to 9 concerning the establishment of working groups.

2. With regard to agenda item 86, “The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction”, 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 Ms. Guillén-Grillo (Costa Rica), 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.

3. *It was so decided.*

4. **The Chair**, referring to agenda item 108, “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.

5. *It was so decided.*

6. **The Chair**, referring to agenda item 80, “Criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission”, said it was his understanding that, in accordance with the decision by the General Assembly, the Committee wished to establish a working group on the topic, to be chaired by Mr. Joyini (South Africa), and that the working group would be open to all States Members of the United Nations and relevant observers to the General Assembly.

7. *It was so decided.*

8. **The Chair** 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.6/70/L.1/Rev.1) and encouraged sponsors of requests for observer status in the General Assembly, under agenda items 168 to 174, to make available the constitutive instruments of the intergovernmental organizations that they were sponsoring.

9. 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. He encouraged sponsors and coordinators of draft resolutions to use *Unite Connections* for the presentation of texts of the draft resolutions as early as possible and to submit them preferably no later than one week after the completion of the debate of the Committee on each item or the completion of the work of the relevant working group, as the case might be. The taking of action on draft resolutions would always be announced, in advance, in the *Journal of the United Nations*. He took it that the Committee wished to proceed accordingly.

10. *It was so decided.*

11. **The Chair** said that the Committee must allow sufficient time for preparation and consideration of the estimates of expenditure arising from draft resolutions. In that connection, all draft resolutions with financial implications must be submitted to the Fifth Committee by 6 November 2015, except for draft resolutions 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 the conference resources and facilities made available to it. 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 lost 500 minutes 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. He took it that the Committee wished to proceed accordingly.

17. *It was so decided.*

18. **The Chair** said that the Committee would continue to use the Integrated Sustainable PaperSmart Services (PaperSmart) meetings arrangement as part of its efforts to promote sustainability and cost-effectiveness in its working methods. Delegations were therefore encouraged to rely on the electronic versions of official documents, as the traditional hard copy distribution of documents and statements had been discontinued. Delegations were asked to send electronic copies of their statements to the PaperSmart team for uploading to the PaperSmart portal and to provide 30 hard copies of their statements for the technical services. The PaperSmart portal would be updated on a daily basis and was freely accessible to anyone with Internet access. It was intended to supplement the existing website of the Committee and *Unite Connections*. Nonetheless, paper versions of official documents could be made available upon request.

19. **Ms. Millicay** (Argentina) said that rather than just being encouraged, sponsors of requests for observer status should be required formally to make available the constitutive instruments of the intergovernmental organizations that they were sponsoring. It would be appreciated if the Committee's work could be organized in such a way that its meetings did not overlap with other meetings of the General Assembly that required the presence of legal experts, to prevent some delegations from having to choose between the two sessions. In that connection, it would be preferable for a meeting of the Committee not to be scheduled on the same day and time that the President of the International Criminal Court was scheduled to present his report to the General Assembly.

20. **The Chair** said the Bureau had done its utmost to take that possibility of overlap into account and would see if any further adjustments could be made to the programme of work.

21. **Ms. Dieguez La O** (Cuba), welcoming the Chair's efforts to make adjustments in the programme of work to prevent such overlap and the recognition of the need for organizations seeking observer status to submit their constitutive instruments, said her delegation noted with concern the recent practice of adopting draft resolutions at different times on days allocated for the general debate or for working group discussions, which made the work of delegations very difficult. All draft resolutions of the Committee, once negotiated and approved, should be adopted jointly at the end of the Committee's session, as had been done successfully in recent years. It was her understanding that the Chair was aware of the issue and was willing to ensure that formal adoption of draft resolutions took place in the most conducive manner possible.

22. **The Chair** said that unlike in the past when the revitalization of the work of the Committee had been considered only on the last day of the session, that issue had been scheduled earlier at the current session, which would give enough time for consideration of the topic.

23. **Ms. Rolon Candia** (Paraguay) said that her delegation was also concerned about the adoption of draft resolutions at different times rather than at the end of the session, because that approach would cause logistical difficulties for a small delegation like hers.

24. **Mr. Adamov** (Belarus), echoing the concerns raised by the representatives of Argentina and Cuba on the need for organizations requesting observer status to submit their constitutive instruments, said that his delegation had already provided the Economic and Social Council with the instruments of an organization that it was sponsoring. Although the new practice of adopting resolutions at different times might appear progressive, the Committee's previous practice of adopting them together at the end of the session had not caused any problems. His delegation therefore failed to see why that practice had to be changed.

25. With regard to the consideration of the report of the International Law Commission in three parts from 2 to 11 November, it would be preferable to have more substantive matters considered during International Law Week, from 2 to 6 November, during which other

bodies also held meetings on legal topics and when most of the experts from capitals would be present. In so doing, organizational matters could be dealt with during the final week.

26. **Mr. Luna** (Brazil), also supporting the position expressed by the representative of Argentina with regard to the overlap of the presentation of the report of the President of the International Criminal Court and the work of the Committee, said he hoped that a change would be made not just for the current session but for future sessions as well.

Agenda item 108: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/68/37; A/70/211; A/C.6/69/SR.28)

27. **The Chair**, drawing attention to the Secretary-General's report on measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/70/211), the report of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 on the work of its sixteenth session (A/68/37), and the oral report by the Chair of the Working Group on measures to eliminate international terrorism of the sixty-ninth session, contained in document A/C.6/69/SR.28, 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 reaching some outcome on the matter.

28. **Mr. Khoshroo** (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 national, regional and international security, and had adverse consequences for economic and social development.

29. Terrorism should not be equated with the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation 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 gravest 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.

30. 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 accusing States of supporting terrorism, a practice that was inconsistent with international law and in itself constituted a form of psychological and political terrorism.

31. States should honour their obligation under international law and international humanitarian law to combat terrorism by prosecuting or extraditing the perpetrators of terrorist acts and preventing them from organizing, instigating or financing terrorist acts against other States from within or outside their territory. They should themselves refrain from 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.

32. The Movement expressed grave concern over the acute and growing threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters and called on all States to cooperate. In that connection, it called upon the United Nations to facilitate capacity-building in accordance with existing mandates to assist States in addressing the problem, upon request. All States that had not yet done so should consider becoming parties to the international instruments on combating terrorism.

33. 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.

34. The Movement continued to call for an international summit conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint response by the international community to terrorism. It 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.

35. **Mr. Phansourivong** (Lao People's Democratic Republic), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations was unjustifiable; it not only undermined international peace and security but also hindered development. Because of its complex and evolving nature, it required a concerted and comprehensive response from the international community. ASEAN member States supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, while considering that much remained to be done to ensure its effective implementation. In that spirit, they looked forward to the next review of the Strategy in June 2016.

36. In line with the Strategy and relevant United Nations conventions and resolutions, ASEAN was engaged in regional and international collective efforts to combat international terrorism, particularly within the complementary framework of the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism. As an outward-looking regional organization, it was also cooperating with other partners in efforts to address the issue. ASEAN leaders had encouraged their relevant sectoral bodies to cooperate more effectively to address the root causes of terrorism, combat terrorist networks, protect the people of ASEAN and reduce the vulnerability of critical infrastructure to terrorist attacks.

37. In January 2015, the ministers of foreign affairs of ASEAN countries had issued a statement condemning violence committed by extremist organizations and radical groups in Iraq and Syria. ASEAN had likewise been active in addressing the issues of transnational crime and the rise of radicalization and violent extremism and promoting religious rehabilitation and social reintegration. Moreover, at the twenty-sixth ASEAN Summit, held in April 2015, ASEAN leaders had reaffirmed their commitment to promote regional peace and security and to enhance ASEAN's role as a global player.

38. Terrorism should not be associated with any religion, race, nationality or ethnicity, and counter-terrorism efforts must respect human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance 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 Member States to address the outstanding issues in a constructive manner.

39. **Ms. Aching** (Trinidad and Tobago), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), expressed deep concern about the escalation of acts of terrorism in various parts of the world and the increase in the number of foreign terrorist fighters. Terrorism was a serious threat to security at all levels and had no respect for territorial borders, race, age, gender or social class. No State was immune from it. The Caribbean region had not been spared and was still awaiting justice for the victims of a terrorist act involving the hijacking and bombing of an aircraft over the Caribbean Sea almost four decades previously.

40. CARICOM was committed to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 69/127 on measures to eliminate international terrorism and called for closer international cooperation in that regard. The perpetrators of such crimes should not continue to act with impunity: no circumstance justified terrorism. All Member States must work together to combat it in accordance with international law. Counter-terrorism strategies adopted outside that framework could blur the line between measures to combat terrorism and action to promote it.

41. CARICOM continued to view the elimination of international terrorism as a key priority on its regional security agenda and had resolved to take practical steps

to prevent and combat it. It remained committed to addressing the conditions contributing to its spread and building States' capacity to prevent and combat it. Several CARICOM States had accordingly enacted legislation based on international counter-terrorism conventions and had also put in place measures to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions. CARICOM urged States that had not yet done so to become parties to relevant conventions and protocols with a view to combating terrorism and the financing of terrorist groups and bringing the perpetrators to justice.

42. The international community must play a more active role in combating terrorism and, to that end, needed to strengthen the relevant multilateral rules-based regime. The time was long overdue to take more progressive action on the draft comprehensive convention against international terrorism, in particular by resolving outstanding political differences such as those relating to the legal definition of international terrorism and the scope of acts to be included in the instrument. If a consensus could at last be achieved on such a convention, it would be a formidable weapon against terrorism, facilitate the prosecution of terrorists and strengthen the capacity of States, especially small States, to fight the scourge. While CARICOM did not view the holding of a high-level conference on terrorism to be a prelude to the finalization of the text of the draft convention, such a conference could be a useful opportunity for Member States to interact with representatives of the various counter-terrorism committees and other actors on ways of enhancing implementation of relevant resolutions and treaties.

43. **Mr. Morejón Pazmiño** (Ecuador), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that, more than ever, terrorism represented a serious threat both to Member States, as it disrupted social structures, and to the international community, since it compromised regional stability and global security. It afflicted even those who were not directly targeted by it and was a source of deep distress to society as a whole. CELAC called for greater awareness of the need to protect victims, particularly women and children, and condemned terrorist groups that deliberately and systematically engaged in sexual violence and in the destruction of world heritage sites and other cultural property. CELAC strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stressed the need to

bring perpetrators to justice. It reaffirmed its commitment to combating it in strict compliance with international law.

44. Terrorism could be contained effectively only through enhanced international cooperation, led by the United Nations. CELAC strongly supported the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy and looked forward to participating in its fifth review; it continued to attach importance to the integrated and balanced implementation of its four pillars.

45. CELAC countries were deeply concerned about the growing number of foreign terrorist fighters and the threat they posed to countries of origin, transit and destination. Member States should address that threat through enhanced cooperation and appropriate measures, particularly since cooperation among States was one of the pillars of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Secretary-General's latest report on the subject ([A/70/211](#)) consolidated useful information on national and international action by States and international organizations to prevent and suppress international terrorism, and CELAC encouraged all Member States to submit information for the next report.

46. Measures to combat terrorism must always be in strict compliance with international law, particularly the Charter of the United Nations, international human rights and humanitarian law and international refugee law, as emphasized in General Assembly resolution 68/178 on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism. Action taken outside that framework was illegal, unjustifiable and unacceptable.

47. One of the issues addressed by resolution 68/178 was the fundamental human right to privacy. CELAC was deeply concerned about the negative impact of State surveillance and interception of communications, including extraterritorial communications, on the enjoyment of human rights. Any measures that interfered with or restricted the right to privacy should be adequately regulated by law and subject to effective oversight and review mechanisms, in order to ensure that such measures were not arbitrary.

48. CELAC continued to reject unilateral blacklists that accused States of supporting and sponsoring terrorism; they were incompatible with international law and should be discontinued. The recent removal of

a CELAC member State from such a list was a welcome development.

49. Innocent civilians in the CELAC region had lost their lives in terrorist attacks. The Community strongly condemned such 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 avoid impunity.

50. CELAC welcomed the steps taken by the Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee to achieve fairer and clearer procedures and strongly supported the role of the Ombudsperson, which had significantly improved the fairness and transparency of the delisting process. The position of Ombudsman should be independent and made permanent, and all other Security Council sanctions regimes should also include such a mechanism so as further to ensure due process. Sanctions should never be an end in themselves but should be regarded as part of a broader strategy to achieve a peaceful political solution.

51. 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, discrimination, dehumanization of victims, absence of the rule of law, human rights violations and prolonged social, political, economic and cultural exclusion. Redoubled efforts were also needed to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism. Member States should foster judicial cooperation and information sharing. United Nations entities were also encouraged to cooperate with Member States and continue to provide them with assistance, on request, in implementing their international obligations in that respect. CELAC welcomed in particular the role of the United Nations in providing technical assistance and developing capacity-building initiatives to combat terrorism. It was to be emphasized in that connection that terrorism and transnational organized crime were different problems, each regulated by a different legal framework, notwithstanding any possible links between them.

52. In view of the increasing challenges faced in combating international terrorism, the international community could not afford to postpone indefinitely the convening of a high-level conference to overcome

the obstacles to the adoption of a comprehensive convention on the subject and resolve the issue of defining terrorist acts. A clear legal regime would strengthen the rule of law in countering international terrorism; indeed, respect for international law was a precondition for the success of the fight against terrorism. The rule of law both nationally and internationally could not be strengthened in that regard without an international legal definition of terrorism. Considering the negative impact that the lack of such a definition might have on the enjoyment of human rights and due process, CELAC welcomed the decision adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/127 to establish during the current session a working group with a view to finalizing the related processes.

53. The CELAC group of countries remained committed to working for the prompt finalization of a comprehensive convention. They urged Member States to take advantage of the momentum generated by the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations to achieve that goal and to show flexibility in resolving all pending issues, particularly in relation to the definition and scope of the acts to be covered by the convention. They, for their part, were resolved to devote their best efforts to that undertaking.

54. **Mr. Joyini** (South Africa), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said that terrorism continued to be a threat not only to international peace and security but also to human rights and that nothing could justify it. It required a balanced and holistic approach, in addition to the steps already being taken to prevent and counter it. The African States condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, by whomever and against whomever committed.

55. Terrorism knew no boundary; it affected every country, including a number of African States, and therefore called for strengthened global action. Africa had long recognized the need for concrete measures to counter it, as reflected in the Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, which had come into force in 2002, the preparation in the same year of a plan of action at an intergovernmental high-level meeting on the subject and the establishment of the African Centre for Studies and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) in Algiers. Other valuable initiatives included the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership, developed with the assistance of the United States, and the Madrid

Declaration and Plan of Action on strengthening the legal regime against terrorism in West and Central Africa.

56. An international law approach to combating terrorism required more effective implementation of counter-terrorism conventions and related United Nations resolutions, as well as capacity-building in developing countries. The African countries remained committed to cooperating with the United Nations and other international partners to that end.

57. The financing of terrorism was a matter of great concern, particularly as one of its main sources was the payment of ransoms. The African Group therefore urged Member States to cooperate in addressing the issue of payment of ransoms to terrorist groups. It condemned the unilateral formulation of lists accusing States of supporting terrorism, a practice that was in conflict with international law and itself a form of psychological and political terrorism.

58. The African Group appreciated the work done by the Ad Hoc Committee in preparing a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and continued to attach importance to the early finalization of that instrument. It remained willing to work with others to achieve consensus on the draft convention and to continue refining the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The proposal to convene a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to decide on an international response to terrorism should be given serious consideration. Accordingly, the African Group called on all States to cooperate in resolving the long-outstanding issues.

59. **Ms. Cujo** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process country Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that recent attacks by terrorist groups and individuals in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa, and just two days earlier in Turkey, demonstrated once again that the world was not free from the scourge of terrorism. The threat to peace and security posed by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) extended beyond Syria, Iraq and the Middle East. The European Union firmly condemned the indiscriminate killings and human rights abuses perpetrated by ISIL and other terrorist

organizations, in particular against religious and ethnic minorities and vulnerable persons, and the destruction of cultural heritage. Sexual violence as a tactic of war to spread terror was of particular concern. It was imperative to ensure justice for survivors and their families and to hold to account the perpetrators of such crimes.

60. More than ever, the international community must respond by condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Member States should redouble their efforts to work together within the framework of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy on its tenth anniversary and review during the current session of the General Assembly. It continued to be central in addressing the evolving trends of the terrorist phenomenon in an integrated and balanced way.

61. The members 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 were in accordance with international law, in particular human rights law, refugee law and humanitarian law. The rule of law alone could ensure the legitimacy of action, a long-term solution to the scourge and justice for victims and their families.

62. In view of the evolution of the terrorist threat, efforts to prevent radicalization and recruitment to terrorism should be further enhanced. The United States had been doing valuable work since the ministerial summit on countering violent extremism, held in Washington in February 2015, including through a series of summit meetings and events and, generally, in catalysing that agenda. Those efforts should remain coordinated for a successful outcome.

63. Prevention was a core element in the European Union's counter-terrorism strategy, as it was in its efforts to counter radicalization and violent extremism. Those efforts were being stepped up through support to institutions inspired by the Global Counterterrorism Forum, such as the first International Centre of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism ("Hedayah") in Abu Dhabi, the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund in Geneva and the International Institute of Justice and the Rule of Law in Malta. The European Union would be conducting an analysis of current and planned initiatives for countering violent extremism across the world and

exploring possibilities for enhanced mutual engagement with other partners. The findings would be presented at the global research summit on countering violent extremism to be held at Hedayah in December 2015. The challenge was to maintain and strengthen efforts to counter violent extremism and to work and coordinate more effectively together. The European Union was accordingly looking forward to the forthcoming United Nations plan of action on preventing violent extremism, to be presented by the Secretary-General, and hoped that it would mobilize all United Nations agencies to address the strategic drivers of violent extremism and at the same time contribute to implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

64. The phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters (FTF) posed unprecedented challenges that required global and multidisciplinary efforts. The European Union was committed to meeting those challenges with the utmost determination through a comprehensive strategic approach and, in that respect, fully supported Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) and the Hague-Marrakech Memorandum on Good Practices for a More Effective Response to the FTF Phenomenon, which was being factored into its capacity-building projects in partner countries. The Radicalization Awareness Network, a network of 2000 practitioners throughout the European Union, was proving particularly valuable in tackling the FTF phenomenon by identifying and sharing best practices.

65. In addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, it was crucial to defeat the ideology of violent extremism; that would require greater cooperation among States and with international and regional organizations. The European Union's Syria Strategic Communications Advisory Team could set an example in that regard. In addition, it was increasingly being recognized that religious and traditional leaders could play an important role in preventing radicalization, violent extremism and terrorism at early stages, as could other civil society stakeholders such as youth, women and victims of terrorism. Progress in that area required local efforts on a global scale.

66. The financing of terrorism was another key concern. The European Union had developed a multi-pronged strategy to counter it, which included analysis of changing threats, trends and methods, the establishment of a clear legal framework and 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), as well as targeted sanctions regimes. Kidnapping for ransom was an increasingly common tactic employed by some terrorist groups to raise funds for their activities. The member countries of the Union were addressing that concern by focusing on cooperation with the private sector and sharing financial intelligence and information on investigations. In accordance with Security Council resolution 2199 (2015), which noted with concern the looting and smuggling of cultural heritage items from sites in Iraq and Syria, the Union would continue to take a proactive stance against such methods of raising funds by identifying best practices and tracking financial flows, including those from offshore jurisdictions.

67. The European Union was committed to a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to counter-terrorism. It would continue to engage in capacity-building projects bilaterally and with regional and international partners, involving civil society and enhancing local ownership of the process. Its engagement in that respect was growing in political importance, geographical scope and monetary terms, amounting to €142 million in ongoing projects. Its counter-terrorism dialogues continued with countries around the world, with enhanced efforts to counter terrorism in the Middle East and North Africa region in particular. The Union's most recent bilateral dialogue, held in Tunisia in September 2015, had enabled it to work together towards a future national strategy that would take into account all underlying factors of terrorism and radicalization, include civil society players, and comply with constitutional principles and international human rights standards.

68. The Union had been actively involved in implementing the criminal law provisions of Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) through the negotiation of an Additional Protocol to the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism and was committed to strengthening its own legal framework to promote a shared understanding of terrorist offences and thereby facilitate cross-border information exchange and cooperation.

69. The delegation of the European Union called once more on all States Members of the United Nations to ratify and implement all United Nations legal

instruments on counter-terrorism. It recognized Member States' efforts towards reaching an agreement on a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and remained committed to its successful conclusion.

70. **Mr. Samvelian** (Armenia), speaking on behalf of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), said that the recent sharp increase in attacks by extremist and terrorist groups was a threat to international peace and security; such acts must be combated exclusively on the basis of international law under the coordination of the United Nations. For that reason, the comprehensive approach enshrined in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was more relevant than ever. His delegation called on all Member States to implement fully all the General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on the subject. The CSTO countries gave priority to combating the financing of terrorism and ideological and military support for terrorism. Their Heads of State had recently taken an initiative aimed at coordinating all efforts to combat ISIL and other terrorist structures in accordance with Security Council resolutions on the establishment of a United Nations counter-terrorism coalition, unifying mechanisms for the prosecution of persons engaged in terrorist activities and eradicating the root causes of terrorism and extremism.

71. Terrorism could not and must not be associated with any one religion, nationality, ethnic group or culture; it was a common threat that needed to be addressed by all countries jointly. The CSTO member countries condemned any attempt to politicize the issue or apply a double standard, including for the purpose of intervening, under the banner of counter-terrorism, in the domestic affairs of sovereign States or destabilizing Governments deemed to be "undesirable". Priority should be given to combating large-scale international terrorist organizations, primarily ISIL, through a coordinated international effort.

72. An immediate concern was to combat the foreign terrorist fighters (FTF) phenomenon through a coordinated set of measures in accordance with Security Council resolution 2178 (2014), in particular through information-sharing to track their movements, improved border controls, the combating of radicalization and FTF recruitment, opposition to FTF financing, more severe penalties against such fighters and strengthened international cooperation. The CSTO

countries, for their part, were prepared to cooperate constructively with all interested States and international organizations to combat terrorism and all other criminal threats to international peace and security.

73. **Ms. Schwalger** (New Zealand), speaking also on behalf of Australia and Canada, said that Security Council resolution 1624 (2005) and others like it remained valuable in the fight against terrorism, as the threat posed by ISIL continued to expand and evolve. ISIL's appropriation of territory in Syria and Iraq and its multifaceted operations made it one of the most serious current threats to international peace and security. Both the immediate threats and the conditions conducive to the spread of violent extremism and terrorism needed to be addressed. The three countries had been working bilaterally, regionally and internationally to that end, including as part of the Global Counter-ISIL Coalition. They had done a great deal, particularly in disrupting flows of foreign terrorist fighters and financial and economic resources, providing support to affected communities, countering ISIL's messages and restoring security, but much remained to be done.

74. United Nations counter-terrorism instruments were an important tool for denying safe havens to terrorist groups and ensuring international unity against terrorism. The conclusion of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism continued to merit support, even in the face of the differences existing between delegations. Efforts should continue to be made to bridge those differences.

75. While each State needed to find for itself the right balance between the three measures called for by Security Council resolution 2178 (2014), namely, prevention of radicalization, recruitment and travel of foreign terrorist fighters, special attention should be given to efforts to prevent radicalization to terrorism. Such efforts should not be pursued through a narrow security lens, but rather through a whole-of-society approach with a focus on local factors conducive to radicalization.

76. Australia, Canada and New Zealand recognized the important role of the Global Counterterrorism Forum in sharing best practices and providing practical guidance and welcomed the recent adoption of its two new framework documents on women's roles in countering violent extremism and good practices for

denying the benefits of kidnapping for ransom by terrorists. Their own position on kidnapping for ransom was clear: they did not pay under any circumstances. To do so would encourage further kidnapping and undermine efforts to degrade terrorist organizations. They urged Member States to cooperate closely in preventing kidnapping and hostage-taking by terrorist groups and in securing the safe release of hostages without ransom payments or political concessions, in accordance with applicable international law. The international community had established the means to suppress the financing of terrorism; however, their effectiveness depended on the commitment and capacity of countries to implement them. All Member States were also required to play a part in preventing illicit trade in cultural property, which was a lucrative source of such financing.

77. Every State was responsible for prohibiting terrorist attacks in domestic law, and primary responsibility for investigating and prosecuting acts of terrorism rested with the State in whose territory an attack occurred; appropriate safeguards must, however, be in place to respect the human rights of accused persons. Where a State failed to exercise jurisdiction, Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 2178 (2014) provided a framework to that end by requiring every Member State to include in its domestic law serious criminal offences that enabled it to prosecute persons participating in international terrorism outside that State's territory.

78. Terrorism in its modern form was particularly disturbing as it eschewed borders and authority and propagated indiscriminate violence. Individual and collective commitment was needed to ensure its necessary elimination. Australia, Canada and New Zealand remained committed to working with others, both in their region and beyond it, to that end.

79. **Mr. Mohamed** (Sudan) said that his Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including State terrorism. Sudan considered the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy to be a key international legal framework for combating terrorism and was willing to cooperate with it by strengthening international and regional cooperation and its own role therein. It had ratified all relevant international conventions on international terrorism, in addition to African and Arab regional conventions on the subject. Sudan played an active part in the counter-terrorism strategies of the

Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the League of Arab States. At the domestic level, one of its most important actions had been the establishment of a counter-terrorism institute bringing together various ministries and governmental bodies.

80. The national counter-terrorism strategy of Sudan had been developed in consultation with representatives of civil society, religious leaders and academics and was built on a political pillar, a social justice pillar and a cultural pillar. His Government was also taking steps to strengthen the role of civil society and raise awareness, particularly among the most vulnerable groups such as women and children, both through the media and through education, in accordance with international standards. It had put in place new legislative provisions against cybercrime and money-laundering which served as a source of financing for terrorism; it had promulgated a new law to combat trafficking in persons; a number of committees had been set up under the Ministry of Justice, enabling it to target not only terrorism but also transnational organized crime and corruption; an investigation unit had been put in place with special powers in that regard; and special training in the latest counter-terrorism policies was being provided to the judiciary.

81. One way of countering terrorism and violent extremism consisted in strengthening dialogue between the North and the South and seeking to extirpate their root causes. Sudan was taking every possible measure at the national level, adopting a multi-pronged approach to that end, but it needed an international framework of support. Poverty was one root cause of terrorism, which in his country had been exacerbated by international sanctions. He therefore called for a lifting of the economic restrictions currently affecting Sudan, one of whose effects was to make it difficult for people to obtain medication, thereby forcing them to seek elsewhere.

82. His Government rejected the unilateral measures imposed by certain States, which it saw as a disguised and unfounded way of accusing it of supporting terrorism. Unsubstantiated blacklists were counter-productive; they politicized international relations to no end. Terrorism should not be linked to any particular religion, ethnic group or nation. All nations must stand united in the fight against it; that required a consensus in the international community around a global counter-terrorism strategy. Sudan accordingly

stood ready to participate fully in the negotiations towards a global comprehensive convention and would work tirelessly towards its finalization, in compliance with its international and regional obligations and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

83. **Mr. Salam** (Lebanon) said that, while there was universal agreement on the condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and on the absence of any link between it and any religion, ethnic group or nation, a clear and unified definition of terrorism was still lacking. Too often, for instance, the legitimate right to resist foreign occupation was associated with terrorism; acts were labelled as terrorism only when perpetrated under the so-called guise of Islam; and violence committed against Palestinian civilians by Israeli settlers was not so described.

84. Lebanon, having long been plagued by terrorist acts, was at the forefront of the multifaceted effort to eradicate that scourge. In cooperation with international partners it had succeeded in disrupting terrorist cells and arresting major terrorist figures; it was still seeking to free members of its armed forces held hostage by ISIL and the al-Nusrah Front; it was a member of the Counter-ISIL Finance Group and had its own Special Investigation Commission, set up to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. His delegation remained committed to a complete cut-off of terrorism financing. Lebanon also attached paramount importance to the protection of cultural heritage and had helped to bring about a significant decrease in the antiquities traffic, whose profits were used to fund terrorist activities.

85. His Government continued to believe it crucial to address the root causes of violent extremism, such as flashpoints of tension, poverty, social exclusion and marginalization, impunity and double standards in the application of international law, all of which were readily exploited by terrorist groups. Efforts must also be made through education to prevent radicalization. It was likewise essential, while countering terrorism, to uphold human rights standards and the rule of law, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and relevant human rights treaties. Lebanon abided by those principles, which were currently being severely tested. He called on the international community to rise to the challenge.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.