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Chair: Mr. Turbék (Vice-Chair) (Hungary)

Contents

Agenda item 108: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*)

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In the absence of Mr. Danon (Israel), Mr. Turbék (Hungary), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

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

Agenda item 108: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (continued) (A/71/182, A/71/182/Add.1 and A/71/182/Add.2)

1. **Mr. Althari** (Saudi Arabia), speaking on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, said that terrorism constituted a flagrant violation of international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and contradicted the principles and practices of Islam; it should not be associated with any religion, race, faith, theology, values, culture, society or group. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation strongly condemned any attempt to associate Islam with any terrorist organization, and reiterated the importance of promoting dialogue, understanding and cooperation among religions, cultures and civilizations, for the good of peace and harmony in the world. It therefore welcomed international and regional initiatives and efforts to that end.

2. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening international cooperation in the fight against terrorism. It was essential to follow a comprehensive approach by addressing the root causes of terrorism, including the unlawful use of force, aggression, foreign occupation, repression, festering international disputes and political marginalization and alienation. It was important to combat all terrorist groups and organizations, wherever they existed, without any distinction.

3. States should enhance their cooperation and coordination with the aim of prosecuting the perpetrators of terrorist acts; preventing the provision of funds, safe havens, assistance or weapons to terrorist groups and organizations; and refuting the narratives and ideologies of terrorist groups and organizations. It was also important to distinguish between terrorism and the legitimate right of peoples to resist foreign occupation, a distinction which was anchored in international law, international humanitarian law, Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 46/51.

4. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was a living document that should be updated and re-examined regularly and implemented in a balanced manner. States should cooperate to ban the payment of ransoms to terrorists. It was important to increase the resources of United Nations entities and departments entrusted with capacity-building in Member States to assist them in fulfilling their obligations under United Nations resolutions. It was also important to enhance bilateral technical assistance and technology transfer to that end.

5. Every effort should be made to reach a consensus agreement on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism by resolving the outstanding issues, including the legal definition of terrorism, in particular the distinction between terrorism and the struggle for the right to self-determination by peoples under foreign occupation or colonial or alien domination, and the scope of the acts covered by that instrument.

6. A high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations should be convened to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and to arrive at an agreed definition of terrorism.

7. **Mr. Wu Haitao** (China) said that the frequent and virtually simultaneous terrorist attacks carried out over the past year showed that the international community must cooperate more effectively in the international fight against terrorism, in order to safeguard world peace and stability. Strategies and the legal framework for international cooperation against terrorism must be continuously improved. It was imperative to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy effectively and to elaborate a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Efforts in that regard must be consistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

8. There should be no double standards in the fight against terrorism, and terrorism should not be linked with any particular ethnic group or religion. The relevant bodies of the United Nations offered an important platform for international counter-terrorism cooperation. Their potential should be fully tapped and their division of labour and coordination strengthened, in order to optimize their effectiveness. Terrorism were proliferating worldwide in part because terrorist forces

were using the Internet and other information and communications technologies to disseminate violent extremist ideologies and incite ethnic and religious hatred. The international community must therefore implement the relevant Security Council resolutions to combat cyberterrorism.

9. States should strengthen border control and law enforcement cooperation to combat the cross-border movement of foreign terrorist fighters, which exacerbated regional conflicts and posed serious threats to the security and stability of the countries of origin, transit and destination of those fighters. The United Nations and the relevant international agencies should set up counter-terrorism databases as soon as possible and share intelligence in order to contribute to that effort.

10. The international community should cooperate more effectively in order to cut off the sources of capital and weapons for terrorist organizations and suppress their attempts to acquire financing through the smuggling of oil, cultural relics and drugs. Countries must tighten controls at the source, enhance transnational information exchange and prevent weapons of mass destruction and nuclear, biological and chemical materials from falling onto the hands of non-State actors, especially terrorists.

11. The international community should promote a dialogue among civilizations, foster a new vision for joint, comprehensive and sustainable security, make progress towards global security governance, promote development and prosperity for all, and increase exchanges in order to encourage harmony, inclusiveness and respect for differences. It should also seek political solutions to regional conflicts, maintain an environment of peace and stability, and promote sustainable development.

12. China had long faced a threat from East Turkestan terrorists, who in recent years had repeatedly incited and organized terrorist activities that posed a serious threat to the security and stability of both China and its neighbours. His Government resolutely opposed all forms of terrorism and violent extremism; it has adopted relevant legislation and was actively participating in multilateral cooperation mechanisms and intelligence-sharing, information-verification, case-handling and capacity-building efforts to combat the phenomena. China had also provided material

support and assistance to other developing countries in counter-terrorism capacity-building.

13. Within the framework of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, China would host a workshop on cyberterrorism on 21 October 2016, in Beijing, to study ways of improving the implementation of Security Council resolution 2129 (2013) and similar instruments, explore the possibility of formulating guidelines for defining cyberterrorism, and promote the establishment of an effective cooperation mechanism.

14. China would continue to work with other countries in a spirit of mutual respect and on an equal footing to strengthen exchanges and promote international cooperation in the area of counter-terrorism.

15. **Ms. Kanchaveli** (Georgia) said that the international community must adopt a joint, coordinated and sustainable approach to address the challenge of terrorism. The degree of violence and brutality that Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) had brought to the Middle East posed a real danger to regional and international security and stability. The conflicts in Syria and Iraq had attracted jihadists from all over the world; Georgian citizens had been targeted for recruitment by terrorist organizations in those countries. Georgia supported the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL and had joined three counter-ISIL working groups — on counter-financing, counter-messaging and foreign terrorist fighters — to help coordinate and exchange information among members of the Coalition.

16. Georgia opposed terrorism in any form. To meet international standards and implement the relevant international instruments, it had adopted a number of legislative and practical measures to prevent and suppress international terrorism: it had signed and ratified several international, regional and bilateral counter-terrorism instruments and incorporated them into its national policy and legislation, had given effect to all relevant Security Council resolutions, and had implemented the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). His Government had set up an inter-agency commission to ensure that Georgia complied with the requirements of Security Council counter-terrorism resolutions. National bodies maintained and regularly updated lists of persons suspected of terrorist activities or of being in contact

with persons or organizations involved in or suspected of such activities.

17. To improve its legislative counter-terrorism capabilities, Georgia had adopted a number of amendments to its Criminal Code, including the criminalization of a range of activities relating to foreign terrorist fighters, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2178 (2014). Other amendments criminalized participation in international terrorism, terrorist recruitment and travel for the purpose of committing or facilitating terrorism. To address increased terrorist propaganda, the Georgian Parliament had adopted amendments criminalizing incitement of terrorist acts or glorification of terrorist organizations or activities.

18. The use of modern encrypted networks by ISIL terrorists in their recruitment efforts constituted a huge obstacle for law enforcement agencies. To meet that challenge, Georgia had simplified its intelligence-sharing procedures and its agencies were cooperating with international partners in that regard.

19. More must be done to address the root causes of violent extremism, including the promotion of social and economic development, education, youth employment and political involvement. In that connection, Georgia was taking steps to integrate the members of vulnerable communities into society based on the belief that imprisonment and other punitive measures without proper resocialization strategies could further aggravate radicalization. It also planned to launch programmes focusing on the rehabilitation and deradicalization of perpetrators of terrorist acts. Special attention must be paid to areas outside effective national and international control, which were at great risk of being used as safe havens for terrorist groups.

20. **Mr. Gafoor** (Singapore) said that South-East Asia had recently become a recruiting ground for terrorist organizations such as ISIL. The use of social media had enabled extremists to propagate violence and extremism and recruit followers. Regardless of their origin or methods, international terrorists and violent extremists sought to divide and tear apart communities and destroy the social fabric of societies. To combat that threat, the Government had adopted a comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy, enhanced its

security response capabilities, and strengthened community vigilance and resilience.

21. Police, security forces and emergency response teams were also being trained and equipped to react swiftly in the event of a terrorist incident. In recognition of the pivotal role that the community played in combating terrorism, the Government had launched a new national movement, called “SG Secure”, to encourage people from all walks of life to join forces in the fight against terrorism. The Government was firmly committed to working hand-in-hand with religious and interfaith organizations to counteract the spread of extremist ideologies, including through deradicalization programmes.

22. Singapore supported the call for a strong, sustained and coordinated global response to terrorism. It was party to 14 international counter-terrorism agreements and was committed to implementing them. In addition, it had acceded to the 2007 ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism and was working in close cooperation with its regional partners, in particular Malaysia and Indonesia, to fight terrorism.

23. International cooperation was essential to address the threat of terrorism. In that connection, his Government had taken major steps to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism by certain regimes. It worked closely with member jurisdictions of FATF to identify best practices and enhance international cooperation on that front. It had also introduced legislation to give effect to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and to Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).

24. **Ms. Myint** (Myanmar) said that terrorism remained a serious threat throughout the world, but it could not and should not be associated with any religion, race, nationality or ethnic group. In combating terrorism, it was important to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the principles of international law, in particular international humanitarian law and international human rights law. Despite the efforts of the international community, the threat posed by global terrorism remained undiminished. The global response must be concerted and comprehensive and must take into account the responsibility which States had to uphold the rule of

law and to fully support the international community's counter-terrorism efforts.

25. Her Government had taken a number of measures to fight terrorism. At national level, it had enacted legislation which criminalized various forms of terrorism and the financing and abetting of terrorism, and had upgraded the counter-terrorism section of the police force to respond to terrorist attacks more effectively. It had enacted the Control on Money-Laundering Act and ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism; it had also set up central control bodies and a financial intelligence unit to oversee the issue.

26. At the regional level, Myanmar was a member of the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering. It had ratified the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, acceded to the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism, and facilitated the adoption of the ASEAN-Australia Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism. It had become a party to the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Convention on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organized Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking, and had been actively participating in the meetings on Asia-Pacific foreign terrorist fighters organized by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

27. At the international level, Myanmar was a State Party to 11 international counter-terrorism instruments and was considering signing or acceding to other international and regional instruments on the subject. It had acceded to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention in 2014 and ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction. It had also deposited its instrument of ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

28. **Ms. Nguyen Ta Ha Mi** (Viet Nam) said that her Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of its motivation, whenever and by whomsoever committed. Terrorism violated the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. The international community must take a comprehensive and united

approach to combat terrorism, with the United Nations playing the leading role. The root causes of international terrorism must be addressed, including political, economic and social inequality and injustice. Action to counter terrorism must be in line with international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

29. Viet Nam continued to strengthen the rule of law at the national level and participated in bilateral and multilateral activities to that end. Through its counter-terrorism legislation, it had established a comprehensive legal framework for combating terrorism at home and abroad. It took part in initiatives to implement the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism and attached great importance to counter-terrorism cooperation with the United Nations. In that connection, it had submitted its instrument of accession to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and had ratified an action plan to implement the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages.

30. **Mr. Apandi Ali** (Malaysia) said that continuous efforts to overcome differences would ultimately make it possible to reach an agreement on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. A high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations should be convened without delay to address the problems currently undermining global counter-terrorism efforts. The conference should focus on the root causes of terrorism and violent extremism and the conditions conducive to the spread of those phenomena, including unresolved conflicts.

31. At the national level, the Special Measures against Terrorism in Foreign Countries Act 2015 and the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2015 were designed to close any legislative gaps pertaining to Security Council resolution [2178 \(2014\)](#). As at September 2016, 239 ISIL militants had been arrested in Malaysia, of whom 98 had been charged with offences involving terrorist acts under the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2015 and the Prevention of Crimes Act 2005. The National Security Council Act was intended for use in real security situations or in the event of terrorist incidents; it strengthened the Government's ability to address extremism and other threats to national

security, and gave the Prime Minister the power to declare a “national security area” when security was seriously disturbed or threatened and an immediate response was required. Malaysia had introduced deradicalization and rehabilitation programmes to change the mindset of radicalized extremists; it was ready to share its experience and its deradicalization module with other countries.

32. In combating terrorism, States must promote international cooperation by exchanging information on the ever-changing facets of terrorism and assisting one another in times of need. In that connection, Malaysia had deposited its instrument of ratification of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism. It had participated in the inter-sessional meeting of legal experts on violent extremism and its manifestations, organized by the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization, which had culminated in the drafting of the Asian-African legal principles to combat violent extremism and its manifestations.

33. **Mr. Atlassi** (Morocco) reiterating his Government’s firm condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, said that there was no justification for any terrorist act and that terrorism could not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. Terrorist groups and their affiliates were using all means available, including information technologies and social networks, to recruit young people and encourage them to become radicalized and to engage in violent extremism. They were able to finance their terrorist activities through the illicit trafficking of oil, cultural goods, drugs, weapons and human beings, and with the support of transnational criminal networks.

34. The growing phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters moving across borders to various hotspots or to destabilize States, thereby violating their sovereignty and territorial integrity, and ultimately returning to their countries of origin or residence showed that no country was safe from terrorism. There was therefore a need for a global response based on close international, regional and subregional cooperation on training and exchange of information and expertise, as well as national strategies that took into account national and regional realities and the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

35. Nonetheless, undeniable efforts had been made at the regional, bilateral, national and multilateral levels to address the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, including the adoption of Security Council resolutions [2178 \(2014\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#), and the significant loss of territory by ISIL and the reduction of its military capacities, as set forth in the report of the Secretary-General ([S/2016/830](#)). The fifth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy had reaffirmed the Organization’s pivotal role in international efforts to combat terrorism. The United Nations must help Member States train specialists in developing countries and assist them in modernizing their judicial, criminal and security systems for combating terrorism. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the adoption by consensus of General Assembly resolution [70/291](#).

36. Morocco had held several meetings with its bilateral, regional and subregional partners to counter the flow of foreign terrorist fighters, strengthen border security, promote the exchange and sharing of information, utilize INTERPOL databases, consolidate the domestic legal framework and the Criminal Code for combating terrorism, and introduce deradicalization and reintegration plans. The seventh ministerial meeting of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, held on 21 September 2016 and chaired by Morocco and the Netherlands, had led to the adoption of an addendum to the Hague-Marrakesh Memorandum on Good Practices for a More Effective Response to the FTF Phenomenon. In conjunction with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, Morocco and the United States were also spearheading an initiative on border security.

37. To address the issue of violent extremism and extremist narratives that incited violence and xenophobia, the first Forum on the Role of Religious Leaders in Preventing Incitement that could Lead to Atrocity Crimes had been held in Fez, Morocco, in April 2015. A declaration had been adopted at that forum stressing the importance and utility of interfaith cooperation in combating all forms of discrimination, xenophobia and incitement of hatred. In January 2016, Morocco had hosted a conference in Marrakesh on the protection of religious minorities in Muslim societies, culminating in the adoption of the Marrakesh Declaration on the Rights of Religious Minorities.

38. At the national level, in line with the four pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Morocco had adopted a global approach which focused on both suppression — through the mobilization of the security and justice services — and prevention — through the adoption of political, economic, social, cultural, educational and religious reforms. It had launched a programme to deradicalize, rehabilitate and reintegrate foreign terrorist fighters, and to train young preachers on the precepts of Islam, based on dialogue, tolerance, moderation, coexistence and respect, which the Muslim religion advocated. It had shared that experience with other countries in Africa, the Arab world and Europe, and stood ready to share it with other countries, including in the framework of triangular cooperation.

39. **Mr. Jo Jong Chol** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that the ongoing refugee crisis had grave consequences for peace and security both in Europe and throughout the world. The root cause of the crisis continued to be the aggression, intervention and murderous atrocities being committed against sovereign States under the pretext of a “war on terror”. The “war on terror” launched in Afghanistan had triggered a vicious cycle of terrorism and had led to the emergence of violent extremist groups such as ISIL. The United States designated countries that did not support it as State sponsors of terrorism, in accordance with its own interests, applying pressure and sanctions on Governments and even overthrowing some, while overtly and covertly supporting anti-government terrorist groups in certain countries. Its “war on terror”, which was accompanied by aggressive military manoeuvres, constituted an act of State terrorism aimed at regime change in countries that did not support the United States.

40. There was no justification for State terrorism; on no account should certain States use the “war on terror” as a tool for the pursuit of their political objectives. The root cause of terrorism should be eliminated to ensure that counter-terrorism made a genuine contribution to peace and security in the world. The arbitrariness, high-handedness, double standards and injustice of certain countries, which trampled on the sovereignty and the right to exist of other nations, were giving rise to terrorism and violent extremism. International efforts to eliminate the root cause of terrorism should be directed towards ensuring a just settlement of international disputes.

41. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea had consistently opposed all forms of terrorism or assistance provided to perpetrators of terrorist acts, and had acceded to the major international conventions on terrorism, including the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Its Government was determined to help strengthen international cooperation on countering terrorism, and would continue to work to eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and to ensure peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and throughout the world.

42. **Ms. Moldoisaeva** (Kyrgyzstan) said that her Government condemned terrorism in all its manifestations and supported the efforts of the international community to counter that phenomenon. Given the increase in new international and regional threats, the international community must join forces to actively combat terrorism and extremism. The United Nations must play a central role in coordinating such efforts.

43. Kyrgyzstan was actively participating in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. On 30 November 2011, the States of Central Asia had adopted a plan of action containing 48 counter-terrorism measures, which her Government had already begun to implement in its national strategies and programmes. Kyrgyzstan cooperated actively with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) which, on a visit to Kyrgyzstan from 24 to 26 February 2016, had noted that the country had made substantial progress in the implementation of Security Council counter-terrorism resolutions.

44. Kyrgyzstan was currently a party to 10 of the 16 United Nations counter-terrorism instruments and was making every effort to bring its legislation into line with international instruments it had ratified. The Government had amended the Criminal Code to introduce stiffer penalties for mercenary activities in foreign military conflicts, terrorist or extremist training and the recruitment, training or arming of persons for the purpose of committing terrorist or extremist acts. A court in Kyrgyzstan had ruled that ISIL, Al-Shabaab, the Nusrah Front and a number of other groups were terrorist and extremist organizations and had prohibited

their activities on the national territory. Measures were being taken to train specialists, prevent the recruitment of terrorists, raise awareness in the media, prevent the propagation of terrorist ideologies over the Internet and exchange information with other countries.

45. As part of its effort to cooperate with international organizations, the Government organized seminars, round tables and conferences to discuss the implementation of United Nations counter-terrorism instruments, elaborate measures for fighting terrorism, extremism and radicalism, promote interaction with the public, non-governmental organizations and the media, prevent the propagation of terrorist ideologies in the media, and provide special training for negotiators and analysts. Kyrgyzstan was a fully fledged member of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Council of Heads of Security Agencies and Special Services, the Conference of Special Services of Turkic-Speaking Countries, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the regional anti-terrorist body of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the CIS Anti-Terrorism Centre.

46. **Mr. Maklouq** (Bahrain) said that his country had had a long and successful history of fighting the scourge of terrorism, a phenomenon which had become an international threat. Bahrain opposed terrorist acts in all their forms, regardless of their motivations. It was committed to combating terrorism in cooperation with other countries in its region and elsewhere. In that regard, it had acceded to a number of international and regional counter-terrorism instruments. It had listed a number of groups, including ISIL, Al-Qaida and Hizbullah, as terrorist organizations, and supported the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL. It had been a member of the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative since 2004, and it was committed to implementing the relevant counter-terrorism resolutions, including Security Council resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#), [1989 \(2011\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#), and to submitting the regular reports which those resolutions required.

47. His Government was working to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and FATF recommendations, and was closely monitoring its borders and other control points and implementing laws and regulations in that respect. At the regional level, Bahrain and fraternal countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council had adopted a security strategy to

fight extremism and terrorism; they signed the Muscat Declaration on Terrorism in 2002 and set up a special counter-terrorism committee in 2006.

48. At the national level, Bahrain had adopted a number of acts and regulations on countering terrorism, such as Act No. 58 (2006) on the protection of society from terrorist acts and the amendments thereto, which included a section on terrorist crimes, and Decree No. 4 (2001) on the prohibition of money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. In 2001, a committee had been established to elaborate policies on prohibiting and combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. In 2014 Bahrain had hosted an international conference on countering the financing of terrorism. In implementation of the outcomes of that conference, a workshop had been held in 2015 on the protection of civil society organizations from the threat of terrorism and possible means of addressing the phenomenon without undermining the activities of those bodies.

49. **Mr. Ja'afari** (Syrian Arab Republic), referring to the absence of a consensus regarding the qualification of the current Chair of the Committee, said that the fundamental mandate of the Committee was to ensure respect for international law, strengthen the rule of law and prevent the violation thereof, especially in light of the forced occupation of territories and the refusal to implement United Nations resolutions calling for an end to such occupation. It was important to note in particular the building of settlements and the imposition of Israeli identity on Arabs in Palestine and the occupied Syrian Golan, the displacement of those people, the destruction of their dwellings, the imposition of collective punishment and a blockade on them, and the perpetration of racial discrimination against them. In addition, support was being given to Nusrah Front terrorists in the area of separation in the occupied Syrian Golan.

50. Although more than 30 resolutions had been adopted on the topic under consideration, terrorism was growing daily and had become a threat to international peace and security. Certain States sought to use terrorism to use terrorism as a political tool to undermine the stability of other countries or interfere in their internal affairs. Certain States also lacked the political will to fight terrorism or provided direct or

indirect support to terrorist groups, while other States even glorified terrorists.

51. The dirty terrorist war that had been waged in the Syrian Arab Republic for more than six years was the most tragic example of the double standards and dangerous political practices of some States, including certain permanent members of the Security Council. Otherwise, it was impossible to explain why Security Council resolution 2253 (2015) remained a dead letter. Those same States continued to support terrorists and terrorist organizations, providing them with weapons, funding, foreign mercenaries and political and religious platforms and turning a blind eye to violations which required swift action.

52. Work must begin without delay on adopting a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which must include a clear definition that distinguished between terrorism and the right of peoples to self-determination. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism which had been adopted in recent years, which must be implemented in full and without politicization. States which supported terrorism must be compelled to respect international law and the Charter of the United Nations. The war against terrorism must be carried out as a joint international effort, in accordance with international law and the Charter. That effort would not be successful as long as certain States continued to use terrorism to serve their foreign policy and to turn a blind eye to the actions of other States that supported terrorism.

53. The Syrian Arab Republic rejected any attempts by certain States to intervene militarily in that country, in the name of fighting ISIL, in violation of the relevant Security Council resolutions. Any such action constituted an act of aggression in violation of international law and aimed to undermine the sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic. The terrorists' narrative of hatred and extremism must be opposed. Efforts must be stepped up to eradicate foreign terrorist fighters and ensure that terrorist groups could not use the Internet and social media to recruit young people. In that connection, it was essential to monitor borders, dismantle groups of foreign terrorist fighters and dry up the sources of funding for terrorists.

54. There had been reports that one of the most important social media networks had signed an agreement with a country occupying territory by force to fight against messages of hate directed against that country. However, at the same time, that network had become the preferred platform used by terrorist organizations, such as ISIL, the Nusra Front and the Army of Islam, to disseminate their messages. Some permanent members of the Security Council had "genetically modified" certain terrorist organizations in the Syrian Arab Republic by referring to them as the "moderate Syrian opposition" and even using language that contradicted the principles of the Charter by referring to "non-State armed groups".

55. The so-called international coalition led by the United States fighting terrorism in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq had recently revealed its biased practices by targeting Syrian troop positions in the city of Dayr al-Zawr, causing many casualties, although the soldiers involved had been fighting ISIL. The coalition had continued its airstrikes in the region, which had not been occupied by ISIL, and was also targeting roads and bridges.

56. His Government was concerned that the United States had withdrawn from the agreement it had struck with the Russian Federation and in which it had agreed to distinguish between "armed rebel groups" and the terrorist Nusra Front. Failure to make that distinction and to refer to all those groups collectively as the "moderate opposition" only provided the terrorists with a safe haven.

57. The only way to address terrorism was through an effective international coalition, acting within the bounds of international law, with the participation of concerned States, including his own. In that connection, his Government welcomed the role played by the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran, which had acted in response to requests by the Syrian Arab Republic and in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations. The world did not need further statements and reports, but the genuine political will to fight terrorism and all groups supporting and financing it.

58. **Ms. Guadey** (Ethiopia) said that, despite the growing threat of terrorism to international peace and stability, international cooperation to address the problem was still lacking and double standards

persisted. The international community should be concerned at the growing use by terrorists of new information and communications technologies and social media to spread misinformation. Social media was also being used by populists and other extremists to mislead young people and spread a message of hate and bigotry. It was also a source of concern that certain States gave a safe haven to persons and groups working to destabilize other countries.

59. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy should serve as a basis for enhancing national, regional and international counter-terrorism efforts. While the primary responsibility for implementing the Strategy rested with Member States, international, regional and subregional organizations must continue to play a key role in promoting cooperation on fighting terrorism. The international community must devise a joint long-term and multi-pronged response. It must encourage dialogue and mutual understanding and address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism in order to reduce its appeal.

60. Ethiopia had ratified and become a party to many regional and international counter-terrorism agreements, had taken a number of legal and administrative measures to implement them, and had adopted measures to give effect to the relevant Security Council resolutions. It had been cooperating with United Nations organs in monitoring individuals and groups listed by the various Security Council sanctions committees.

61. Her delegation reiterated its support for the convening of an international summit under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including identifying its root causes, and called on Member States to show flexibility in resolving outstanding issues so that the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism could be finalized.

62. **Mr. Khiari** (Tunisia) said that the recent unprecedented upsurge in terrorist attacks called for rapid, concerted action. It was essential to understand the factors leading to radicalization and violent extremism and to introduce appropriate mechanisms for an exchange of expertise and information so as to strengthen national counter-terrorism capacities. His Government was firmly committed to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and to the

relevant Security Council resolutions, a number of which focused on specific action to address the phenomenon of foreign fighters.

63. Thanks to the determination of its people, its political class and civil society, Tunisia had been able to prevent polarization and attempts to frustrate the political transition process and had succeeded in laying the foundation for an emerging democracy. It had adopted a consensual and progressive Constitution that enshrined the country's openness to modernity and to other cultures and civilizations and guaranteed freedom of conscience and pluralism. The nation's stakeholders had been determined to complete the political transition, ensure the success of the legislative and presidential elections and thus lay the foundation for the Second Republic.

64. However, the new democratic process was unfolding in a very difficult context, in which terrorism constituted the biggest threat to peace and security in the region. The Government had therefore taken a number of legislative, institutional and operational measures to optimize its counter-terrorism efforts. It had passed legislation to combat terrorism and punish money-laundering, criminalizing all acts aimed at supporting, inciting, excusing or financing terrorism, and travel to areas of conflict or training or recruitment of persons to commit terrorist acts.

65. His Government was working with the relevant United Nations bodies, including CTED, to develop a concerted national counter-terrorism strategy which took into account the security, social, economic, media, educational and religious dimensions. Judicial and security focal points specializing in the fight against terrorism had been appointed. The Government was also taking steps at the regional and subregional levels to strengthen cooperation in the area, ratifying 14 international counter-terrorism instruments.

66. **Mr. Saikal** (Afghanistan) said that the growing threat of terrorism to the security and stability of all societies, irrespective of their geographical location, showed that the global counter-terrorism campaign must be revitalized and become more responsive. To that end, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy continued to be the most effective framework within which States must fulfil their counter-terrorism obligations. His Government welcomed the fifth review of the Global Strategy and acknowledged the

important mandate of the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, CTED and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) in providing States with technical and logistical assistance so that they could meet their counter-terrorism obligations.

67. Afghanistan saw merit in a review of the activities of United Nations entities to identify and fill gaps in implementation and the steps to be taken for a more results-oriented approach towards fulfilling their mandates. Notwithstanding the many resolutions of the General Assembly and Security Council, including Security Council resolutions [1373 \(2001\)](#) and [2178 \(2014\)](#), elements in some States, particularly one in South-Central Asia, still resorted to terrorism as a tool to advance their misguided foreign policy agenda. The fight against terrorism could not be won if the international community failed to address the problem of terrorist sanctuaries, safe havens and training centres. Any State or elements within a State that were involved in the perpetration or orchestration of terrorist attacks must be held to account.

68. Afghanistan had continued its fight against terrorism unabated. Its security forces had been tested on different fronts, battling a sophisticated network of nine terrorist groups in different parts of the country. The forces had repelled another attempt by the Taliban and its affiliates to establish a presence in Kunduz City in northern Afghanistan, dealing a heavy blow to the enemy forces. The Government had adopted a holistic approach to fighting terrorism, with both military and peace-building components, combating elements driven by extremist ideologies, while keeping the door to peace and reconciliation open to those ready to renounce violence, accept the Constitution and return to normal life. It had launched a platform for religious clerics to encourage them to denounce terror and violence at home and abroad.

69. His delegation joined the call for the conclusion of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, to ensure a more responsive approach to the problem, and welcomed the Secretary General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism and its recommendations, which offered a unique perspective for addressing some of the underlying conditions that drove individuals to become radicalized and join extremist groups.

70. Interreligious and interfaith dialogue and collaboration could play an important role in the fight against terrorism by fostering a spirit of peace, solidarity and harmony between cultures and religions. Afghanistan rejected all forms of religious and faith-based intolerance and the association of any religion with terrorism. In that connection, it welcomed the important work being done by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and the outcome of the Baku Declaration, adopted at the conclusion of the Seventh Global Forum of the Alliance, held in April 2016.

71. As a country whose people had stood in the front line of the global war against terrorism for over two decades, Afghanistan reiterated its longstanding commitment to defeating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and would continue to collaborate with all stakeholders nationally, regionally and internationally to degrade and eliminate that scourge.

72. **Mr. Saddawi** (Iraq) said that his Government firmly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Terrorist acts were unjustifiable, regardless of their motivations. It was essential to adopt and support all measures aimed at eradicating that scourge, particularly through regional and international cooperation. It was also important to work under the auspices of the United Nations and other international organizations to combat terrorism and bring the perpetrators to justice or extradite them to States in which the terrorist acts had been committed, in accordance with the relevant international treaties.

73. Iraq had ratified and acceded to four counter-terrorism conventions, namely the Arab Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism and the amendments thereto, the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, the Convention of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on Combating International Terrorism and the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings. Iraq had hosted a number of international conferences and events on combating terrorism, including the third international meeting on foreign terrorist fighters, held in October 2015, and the Second International Psychological and Media Operations to Counter Daesh Conference, held in August 2016.

74. Having fallen victim to some of the most brutal terrorist attacks, Iraq expressed appreciation for the international support provided in its fight against that scourge, in line with the principles of international cooperation set out in the Charter of the United Nations. It commended the efforts of the Security Council, including a clear condemnation of all commercial or economic activities aimed at destroying the cultural heritage of Iraq. It paid tribute to the Secretary-General for appointing as Goodwill Ambassador the Iraqi Yazidi survivor Nadia Murad Basee Taha, who represented the victims of terrorism around the world.

75. It was essential to address the root causes of terrorism, such as poverty, unemployment, human rights violations, contempt for religion, foreign occupation and double standards in dealing with international issues. Otherwise, terrorism would continue to pose a threat to the stability of nations and to international peace and security. To be justified, all measures to suppress terrorism must be in accordance with international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

76. **Mr. Muhumuza** (Uganda) said that his Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Acts of terrorism were unjustifiable, regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed. As the only international body with near-universal membership, the United Nations was best suited to coordinate the fight against international terrorism, in conjunction with regional and subregional organizations and national entities. Anti-money-laundering legislation had done much to combat the financing of terrorism in Uganda, but revenue had been lost as a result, for which Uganda would appreciate some compensation.

77. Over the years, Uganda had succeeded in driving terrorists groups out of its territory, but remnants continued to operate from neighbouring countries. The Lord's Resistance Army was on the run in the Central African Republic, while the Allied Democratic Forces were scattered in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. All States must cooperate to eradicate the remnants of those groups. Such cooperation had led to the arrest of Dominic Ongwen, a senior commander of the Lord's Resistance Army, who was standing trial for war crimes and crimes

against humanity before the International Criminal Court. Cooperation and information-sharing between neighbouring countries had also made it possible to capture Jamil Mukulu, the head of the Allied Democratic Forces, who had been responsible for a reign of terror in Uganda and the eastern region of Democratic Republic of the Congo.

78. Under the auspices of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), Uganda had played a central role in fighting Al-Shabaab, and Somalia was beginning to reclaim its rightful place in the international community. Uganda would not relent in its efforts to fight Al-Shabaab and its affiliates.

79. His delegation commended the work of the Ad Hoc Committee established by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 in drafting a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. While commending the work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) in preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, his Government was concerned that the toxic waste dump off the coast of Somalia might constitute an arsenal for terrorists in their quest for such weapons. Only real progress in the global nuclear disarmament process would ensure that nuclear weapons did not fall into the hands of terrorist groups.

80. A comprehensive definition of terrorism would prevent terrorists from claiming that their struggle was legitimate. The conditions under which terrorism thrived should be identified and the root causes of terrorism should be addressed in a comprehensive manner.

81. **Mr. Bessedik** (Algeria) said that his Government condemned terrorist acts in all their forms and manifestations, regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed. It was determined to continue its struggle against terrorism and violent extremism as well as against all misconceptions and the tendentious association of terrorism with any religion, civilization or geographical area. The fight against terrorism must include a fight against xenophobia and Islamophobia, which were emerging as new faces of violent extremism.

82. His delegation welcomed the adoption by consensus of the General Assembly resolution on the fifth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and endorsed the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. It called on the Committee to continue working to finalize the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and to reach an agreement on a definition of terrorism that was in line with the Charter and international law. His delegation also supported the convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a common stand for eradicating terrorism in all forms and manifestations.

83. The increased incidence of kidnapping and hostage-taking by terrorist groups seeking to obtain weapons or political concessions continued to be a cause for concern. His Government was well known for not paying ransoms or making substantial concessions to terrorists; it welcomed the progress made towards a prohibition on such payments by all Governments. The fight against terrorism must be waged on a daily basis at all levels, whether political, institutional, economic, cultural, religious, educational or social, with the active involvement of all national institutions, stakeholders and citizens. For that reason, the Algerian authorities had adopted a national plan of action for deradicalization and prevention of violent extremism and a strategy to strengthen participatory democracy, the rule of law and social justice and ensure that development offered equal opportunities for all.

84. The African Union had also adopted many instruments and engaged in various initiatives to combat terrorism in all its forms, including the decision condemning the payment of ransoms to terrorist groups, the appointment of a special representative for counter-terrorism cooperation and the establishment of a subcommittee on terrorism within its Peace and Security Council. In the Sahel region, the current context required that every effort should be made to enhance coordination and cooperation and strengthen national capacities. The Algerian Government had adopted a constructive approach through many cooperation mechanisms to strengthen border control measures and intelligence-sharing. It was also working to promote stability and peace in the Maghreb, northern Mali and the Sahel,

with due regard for the principles of State sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

85. **Mr. Rao** (India) said that the international community must adopt a policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism, which was a crime against humanity and the greatest violation of human rights. No belief, political cause or argument justified acts of terrorism, which could not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group. The perpetrators of terrorist attacks must be brought to justice. States that supported and sponsored terrorists or terrorist groups or provided them with safe havens must be held accountable.

86. The General Assembly had played a major norm-setting role in the fight against international terrorism, having adopted three important counter-terrorism instruments formulated by the Ad Hoc Committee that it had established in its resolution 51/210. Regrettably, that Ad hoc Committee's efforts to elaborate a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism were still entangled in the issue of who could be exempted from its coverage and under what circumstances. Yet, no distinction could be made between acceptable and unacceptable, or good and bad terrorism, even though the representative of a certain delegation, referring to Jammu and Kashmir, an integral part of India, had asserted that persistent violations of human rights could justify terrorism or violent extremism. Any acts of terrorism were criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed.

87. In 1996, India had introduced a proposal to the General Assembly for a comprehensive convention against terrorism in the belief that such an instrument would go a long way towards strengthening the international legal framework and filling the gaps in sectoral instruments on the subject. At the World Summit in 2005, the Heads of State and Government had stressed the need to make every effort to conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism during the sixtieth session of the General Assembly. As more than a decade had elapsed without a result, the Committee should acknowledge that it had been unable to complete that task, and allow other bodies or forums to take up the issue.

88. Some delegations had argued that the Committee should not take up that issue, as it overlapped with the

debate on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. However, if that was the case, perhaps those delegations might wish to explain whether the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism should be finalized or whether it should be abandoned. His delegation felt that it was essential to act on the draft without any further delay, and supported for the text proposed in 2007 by the coordinator of the Ad Hoc Committee.

89. His Government attached particular importance to counter-terrorism cooperation and exchange of information at the international, regional and subregional levels. India was a party to 14 of the 19 international counter-terrorism instruments, and had signed a number of other regional instruments to strengthen counter-terrorism cooperation. It had also concluded more than 40 bilateral treaties concerning extradition and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.

90. At the national level, the Government had passed the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967, which incorporated provisions dealing with all aspects of terrorism, including conspiracy and incitement to commit terrorist acts. It made it an offence to raise funds for terrorist activities, keep the proceeds of terrorism, harbour terrorists, or illegally possess or use a bomb, dynamite or hazardous explosive substance or other lethal weapon. The Weapons of Mass Destruction (Prevention) Act 2005 contained detailed measures to prevent weapons of mass destruction or dual-use materials from falling into the hands of terrorists and other non-State actors. The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act 2010 streamlined the monitoring of all foreign contributions received by non-governmental organizations and religious, educational and charitable groups. The Government had also taken measures to prevent foreign terrorist fighters from travelling to or transiting through India.

91. India remained deeply concerned about the financing of terrorism and foreign terrorist fighters, despite numerous Security Council resolutions calling on States to refrain from providing any form of active or passive support to entities or persons involved in such acts, including by suppressing the recruitment of members of terrorist groups and eliminating the supply of weapons to terrorists. It strongly condemned direct or indirect financial assistance given by States to

terrorist groups or their members to pursue their activities, including for the defence of accused terrorists. It had been at the forefront of global counter-terrorism efforts and was part of all major global initiatives on the topic, including FATF.

92. He called upon States that had not yet done so to introduce initiatives to prevent and suppress the activities of or support for foreign terrorist fighters. The international community could not afford to deal with terrorist groups or dismantle their infrastructure in a selective manner. Collective efforts must be stepped up, with real-time cooperation to confront the scourge of terrorism decisively. The use of terrorism as an instrument of State policy could not be tolerated.

93. **Mr. Musayev** (Azerbaijan) said that his Government strongly condemned terrorism and violent extremism in all their forms and manifestations. All terrorist acts were unjustifiable, regardless of their motivations; they constituted serious crimes and must be prosecuted. The shielding and glorification of terrorists must not be tolerated. The sensitive geographic location of Azerbaijan and the armed conflicts in its region made it vulnerable to international terrorism, illegal migration, transnational organized crime, arms, drug and human trafficking and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Since the end of the 1980s, it had repeatedly been the target of terrorist attacks that had claimed the lives of more than 2,000 people.

94. His Government had taken comprehensive measures to strengthen the country's security and defence capabilities, border control and management, and export control systems. Azerbaijan was a party to all international and regional instruments on combating terrorism. It supported concerted, coordinated international cooperation to combat terrorism as well as individual and collective efforts, including those aimed at degrading and ultimately defeating terrorist organizations and their affiliates and networks.

95. Notwithstanding the importance of addressing all conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, in line with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, it was critical to intensify conflict resolution efforts around the world. Areas of armed conflict, especially territories under foreign military occupation, were often exploited by terrorists, separatists and other organized criminal groups. The accumulation of

armaments and munitions in areas beyond the reach of legitimate Governments and international control and the risk of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction posed a serious threat to regional and international peace and security. Scrupulous compliance by all States with their international obligations, including the relevant Security Council resolutions, was key to ensuring that their territories were not used for terrorist, separatist and related activities, and in particular for providing financing for such activities or other forms of direct or indirect support.

96. Despite the tangible results achieved by the international community in countering terrorism, including the establishment of a comprehensive legal framework, the absence of a clear definition of terrorism in international law hampered efforts to call to account not only individual terrorists and organizations, but also States that promoted, supported or financed terrorist activities. His delegation reiterated its determination to contribute actively to the process of reaching an agreement on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and welcomed the counter-terrorism measures adopted by regional organizations.

97. The war on terrorism must not be used to target any religion or culture. All States must support work to promote initiatives on intercultural and interreligious dialogue, such as the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, and a culture of peace and multiculturalism. In that connection, he commended the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for its work to safeguard cultural heritage sites in times of peace and in the event of armed conflict.

98. Over the years, Azerbaijan had promoted respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures, civilizations and peoples. It had hosted a number of high-level international events and had set up the Baku International Multiculturalism Centre. The Declaration of the Seventh Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, held in Baku in April 2016, contained a set of commitments aimed at overcoming challenges and advancing towards the goal of living together in inclusive societies in order to achieve sustainable development. In their outcome Declaration, the participants of the Fifth Baku International

Humanitarian Forum, another high-profile event that had taken place in Azerbaijan, had condemned escalating conflicts, militant extremism, terrorism and the related humanitarian crises and the forced displacement of people, and had emphasized the importance of fostering an atmosphere of tolerance and mutual respect.

99. Strengthening cooperation within such frameworks would serve to prevent misconceptions, defamation and the deliberate labelling of religions, and help to combat terrorism.

100. **Mr. Abidogun** (Nigeria) said that the debilitating effects of terrorist acts, including the erosion of law and order, the destabilization of government structures and the negative impact on economic growth, had adversely affected development in many countries. An all-inclusive regional and international collaborative approach was needed to defeat terrorism, and his Government was committed to working closely with all United Nations counter-terrorism entities to that end. It welcomed in particular the role played by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and its synergy with CTITF. His delegation had supported the adoption of General Assembly resolution [70/120](#), and hoped that the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism would be finalized at the current session.

101. For years, the terrorist group Boko Haram had been committing acts of brutality against the Nigerian population, targeting Muslims and Christians indiscriminately. Those attacks only strengthened the Government's resolve to respond to that scourge, including through closer cooperation with the Governments of Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Benin. The Security Council had recently acknowledged the territorial advances made against Boko Haram and had welcomed the initiative by Nigeria to convene a second regional security summit in May 2016.

102. Despite the progress made in the fight against Boko Haram, further international cooperation was still needed to defeat the terrorist group once and for all. Nigeria had developed considerable capacities for the prompt and timely prosecution of Boko Haram suspects, including the establishment of a complex-case group to address all terrorism matters. A programme had also been introduced for the deradicalization, rehabilitation, reorientation and reintegration of repentant suspects.

Members of CTITF had trained more than 100 government officials in the areas of human rights, rule of law and counter-terrorism.

103. The war against terrorism could not be won without the resolve of all States Members of the United Nations. Full compliance with all United Nations resolutions and with conventions against terrorism and its financing and other regional instruments would constitute a valid point of departure and a good framework for cooperation.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.