



STATEMENT

by

Ambassador Eden Charles,

Deputy Permanent Representative

of Trinidad and Tobago to the

United Nations

on behalf of

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

on

AGENDA ITEM 105

“MEASURES TO EMININATE INTERNATIONAL

TERRORISM”

IN THE SIXTH COMMITTEE,

**United Nations,
October 8, 2012**

Mr. Chairman

Trinidad and Tobago has the honour to address this Committee on behalf of the fourteen Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). We also wish to congratulate you and the members of the bureau on your election.

You may rest assured of the full support of CARICOM as you preside over the work of the Sixth Committee during the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. CARICOM also aligns with the Statements delivered by the delegation of Chile on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), as well as the delegation of Iran on behalf of the Non-Alignment Movement (NAM).

We thank the Secretary –General for his Report A/67/162 which, among other things, provides useful information on the measures adopted by States and international organizations in the fight against terrorism.

Mr. Chairman

CARICOM calls for renewed vigor from the international community as we undertake deliberations on agenda item 105, *“Measures to eliminate international terrorism.”* We emphasize that it cannot be business as usual on this subject because the international context in which this debate is being held differs in some troubling respects from what it was one year ago. Mr. Chairman, we are aware of the conditions which constitute a breeding ground for terrorism. For example, terrorism thrives in situations of uncontrolled change; in situations where the exercise of state authority breaks down or becomes compromised, for whatever reason. In recent months we have seen this truth demonstrated in for example, the African Sahel.

Mr. Chairman, this situation should add a fresh note of urgency to this debate, compelling us to act in such a manner as to ensure specifically that terrorists are deprived of a beach-head in the Sahel and other regions.

CARICOM will continue to do its part to ensure not only that terrorism remains an issue of high priority on the agenda of the Organization, but also that our states remain focused and forthright in keeping the international community sensitized to the need for purposeful action against this grave problem.

Mr. Chairman

CARICOM strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever it occurs. Terrorism is an albatross that significantly obstructs the social, economic, political and psychological fabric of the entire global community. We must therefore pursue, at the national and international levels, all appropriate measures designed to eliminate this scourge.

In this regard, CARICOM urges acceleration of the protracted negotiations on the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

The inability of the global community to agree on a definition of terrorism represents a major obstacle in the overall process. It is CARICOM's view that a universally accepted legal definition of terrorism is crucial for ending impunity for the perpetrators of these heinous crimes and is also critical for improving the response of the international community to these disruptive and criminal acts.

CARICOM joins others in calling for the convening of a high level conference on international terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations in order to harness the political will that is necessary to bring the negotiations on the Convention to a successful conclusion.

We recognize that through the United Nations and other global, regional and sub-regional organizations, the international community has mobilized a significant amount of resources and efforts toward the eradication of terrorism. This has included numerous thematic conventions and resolutions on the issue.

Nevertheless, prevailing evidence clearly demonstrates that these efforts remain inadequate.

Consequently, CARICOM calls for a greater level of coordination among all of the relevant agencies in the fight against this clear and present threat.

In this context, CARICOM reiterates its firm support for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy which was adopted under General Assembly Resolution 60/288 and welcomes additional assistance in implementing the four pillars of the Strategy from the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. As developing countries, CARICOM Member States view such support as an integral part of our efforts to implement the Strategy and participate meaningfully in the global fight against terrorism.

We salute the efforts of UN entities involved in capacity building on combating terrorism in our region. Through their efforts we are better able to fulfill our international obligations on this important issue.

CARICOM is of the view that any action taken in the fight against terrorism must be governed by respect for the rule of law and due observance of the principles of International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law. As responsible members of the international community it is clear to us that any attempt to act outside of these principles could distort the distinction between measures taken to eradicate terrorism and those taken to promote it.

In spite of our resource constraints, Mr. Chairman, CARICOM Member States have enacted and implemented national legislation as well as other measures aimed at combating terrorism. These efforts are consistent with our overall objective to promote and maintain respect for the rule of law in our jurisdictions as an important tool in tackling terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM Member States look forward to the continued leadership of the United Nations in the fight to eliminate terrorism. We are fully convinced that the United Nations is the appropriate forum for the coordination of the global response to this persistent challenge. We remain resolute in our support for the efforts of the UN to combat this global menace.

I thank you.