

Islamic Republic of I R A N

Permanent Mission to the United Nations

Statement by:

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Before the Sixth Committee
On Agenda item 110:
“Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism”

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Mr. Chairman,

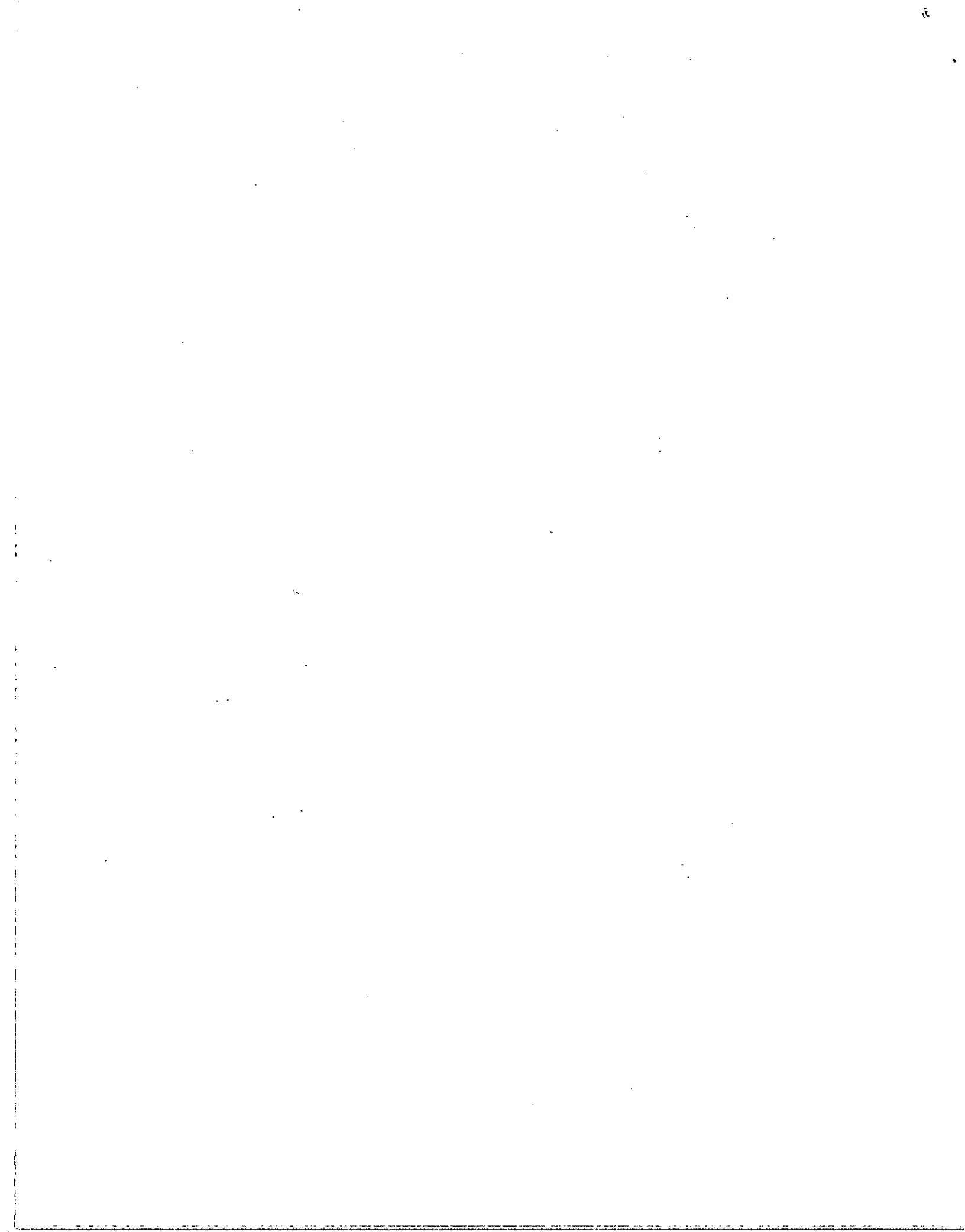
I would like to join other delegations in personally congratulating you on your election as the Chair of this Committee. Our congratulation also goes to other members of the Bureau. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation. I would also begin by aligning myself with the statements delivered yesterday by the coordinators of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been a victim of terrorism for decades, and is still suffering from terrorist attacks under different forms and manifestations, including State terrorism. As a target of terrorism we fully understand the untold consequences of acts of terrorism for the victims and for the society at large. I take this opportunity to respectfully observe the large number of Iranian victims of terrorism in numerous terrorist incidents, in particular the cases in recent years. The victims are best evidence of failed policies of terrorist groups and their sponsors.

Mr. Chairman,

So sadly, State terrorism continues to endanger peace, security and basic human rights of people. State terrorism has targeted scientific and technological development by assassinating the elite human resources in the developing countries. During the recent years, there have been several incidents that professional scientists have fallen victim of terrorist attacks in Iran. These cases are among the very examples that show a main challenge in countering terrorism: double standard and simply categorizing



good and bad terrorism based on narrow political interests. Selective or double standard approaches in dealing with terrorism should be strictly rejected and we warn that such approaches could undermine international trust and cooperation in countering terrorism worldwide. A united international community with unified approach in fighting this scourge in an indiscriminate manner is indeed a key in advancing a global fight against terrorism.

We must indeed reject functional approach toward terrorism. While it is always repeated that all forms of terrorism should be condemned by all States, in reality, there is a discriminatory stance by some States toward terrorism. The case of delisting the notorious terrorist group that has killed and injured thousands of Iranians, from list of terrorist organizations in some countries is an obvious example. Although even that listing didn't put practical restrictions on the group's activities in those countries but such clear political moves demonstrate the actual challenges the international community faces in fighting terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

The threat of terrorism continues to affect our societies and we still seem to be far from uprooting this menace. To borrow words from my President's recent statement, violence and extremism nowadays have gone beyond the physical realm and have unfortunately afflicted and tarnished the mental and spiritual dimensions of life in human societies. Violence and extremism leave no space for understanding and moderation as the necessary foundations of collective life of human beings and the modern society. Intolerance is the predicament of our time. We should not just learn how to tolerate others. We need to rise above mere tolerance and dare to work together in order to address conditions conducive to spread of terrorism.

Terrorism and the killing of innocent people represent the ultimate inhumanity of extremism and violence. The agonies of those increasing numbers of men, women and children who fall victims to blind air strikes and indiscriminate bombings could not be explained away as unfortunate collateral damages. We are of the view that countering terrorism should be done in full conformity with the United Nations Charter and international law, international human rights and humanitarian law. The rule of law and respect for civilian's rights and humanitarian law should be our guiding principles in fighting terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism should not be equated with the legitimate struggle of peoples under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation for self-determination and national liberation. Meanwhile, as it has been stressed by my delegation time and again, vicious attempts to associate or attribute terrorism to a particular culture, religion or nationality is deplorable and would only lead to distrust, hatred and division among nations as well as giving a leeway to terrorists. We welcome all initiatives that seek to promote dialogue among civilizations, cultures and religions.

And finally, we acknowledge that people all over the world are tired of war, violence and extremism. They hope for a change in the status quo. And this is a unique

opportunity – for us all. Hope is founded on the belief in the universal will of the people across the globe to combat violence and extremism, to cherish change, to oppose imposed structures, to value choice, and to act in accordance with human responsibility. Geared on such basis, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran in his recent address to the General Assembly proposed as a starting step, the consideration by the United Nations of the idea: “the World Against Violence and Extremism (WAVE).” All states, international organizations and civil society entities have been invited to undertake a new effort to guide the world in this direction. We can cooperate to this end in order to stop terrorism by promoting moderation against all forms of violence and extremism.

I thank you.