

The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
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**Statement by Egypt on behalf of the OIC Group
before the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly
on item 110 “Measures to eliminate International Terrorism”
New York, 7 October 2013**

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the OIC Group on the agenda item “Measures to eliminate international terrorism”. At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Sixth Committee. Congratulations also go to other members of the Bureau on their election, and I would like to assure you the OIC Group’s full support throughout the work of the Committee.

It has been very well known to the international community that the OIC Group strongly condemns all acts and practices of terrorism and remains convinced that terrorism, irrespective of its motivation, objectives, forms and manifestations, committed by whomever and wherever, can never be justified.

We wish to draw the Committee’s attention to the Final Communiqué of the OIC Summit held in Cairo, Egypt in February 2013 (document #:OIC/SUMMIT-12/2013/FC/Final), the OIC Group Resolution No. 20/39-POL adopted by the 39th meeting of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Minister held in Djibouti in November 2012 as well as the Joint Communiqué of the OIC-Annual Coordination Meeting held in New York in September 2013.

Mr. Chairman,

The OIC Group reaffirms that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, race, faith, theology, values, culture, society or group. No religion or religious doctrine encourages or inspires acts of terrorism, and thus, none should be portrayed as such. In this increasingly globalized world, we need more than ever before understanding, harmony, mutual respect and building of bridges among all cultures and peoples.

The OIC Group also reaffirms its commitment to strengthen mutual cooperation in the fight against terrorism. Only through a coordinated approach the international community’s fight against terrorism will yield effective results. To achieve this objective the OIC Group supports a comprehensive strategy to combat terrorism that must address the root causes of terrorism including unlawful use of force, aggression, foreign occupation, festering international disputes, denial of the right of peoples living under foreign occupation to self-determination, political and economic injustices, and political marginalization and alienation.

The Group reiterates once again the need to make a clear distinction between terrorism and the exercise of legitimate right of peoples to resist foreign occupation, and would like to stress that this distinction is duly observed in International Law, International Humanitarian Law, Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 46/51 which also endorses this position.

The OIC reaffirms that the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy constitutes an ongoing effort and is a living document, which should be up-dated and examined regularly. In this regard, The OIC looks forward to the forth review of the Strategy that will take place in 2014. The Group also reaffirms that the Counter-Terrorism Strategy should be implemented in a balanced manner in all its aspects.

The OIC considers that the financing of terrorism is a matter of grave concern for the international community and recognizes that the payment of ransoms to terrorist groups constitutes one of the main sources of financing of terrorism. The Group urges, in this regard, the member States to cooperate for banning the payment of ransoms claimed by terrorist Groups.

The OIC expresses grave concern about the intensification of violent provocations, incitement and terrorism against the Palestinian civilian population and their properties, including damage to homes, agricultural lands as well as desecration of cemeteries, mosques and churches, including Al-Haram Al-Sharif.

Mr. Chairman,

The General Assembly remains seized to the pending issue of the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. The OIC Group reaffirms its commitment to the process of negotiations and underscores the need for progress in this process. We reiterate our previous proposal on the scope of the draft Convention. The Group is still willing to continue consideration of the Coordinators latest proposal. We reaffirm our determination to make every effort to reach a consensus agreement on the draft convention, by resolving the outstanding issues including those related to the legal definition of terrorism, particularly on the distinction between terrorism and the struggle for the rights of self-determination by people under foreign occupation, and colonial or alien domination, as well as on the scope of the acts covered by the draft Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

The OIC Group reiterates the call to hold a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and to conclude an agreed definition of terrorism.

The Group recalls General Assembly resolution 66/10 dated 18 November 2011 regarding the establishment of the United Nations Centre for Counter-Terrorism, and encourages all Member States to collaborate with the Centre and to contribute to the implementation of its activities in accordance with the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The OIC also welcomes the recent contribution of 100 million US dollars announced by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz to support and strengthen the capacity-building functions of the Centre.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.