

STATEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

Item 110 – SG Report on Measures to eliminate international terrorism

07 and 08 October 2013

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Let me begin by again congratulating you for your election as our Chairman. Through the years that we have been closely working together on many challenging issues affecting our Asia-Pacific region and the larger world, we know that we have every reason to be confident in your leadership. And you know, just as well, that you can personally count on our support and our friendship.

At the outset, my delegation associates itself with the statements delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, and by the Lao People's Democratic Republic on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations or ASEAN.

We wish to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report.

Terrorism remains one of the gravest threats to international peace and security. The Philippines reiterates in the strongest terms its condemnation and rejection of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as acts, methods and practices of terrorism wherever, by whomever, against whomsoever committed.

Everyday we stand guard, keeping vigilant on the lookout to derail the scourge of terrorism at the national, bilateral and multilateral levels. Then as now, no single country can defeat terrorism all by itself. It is fitting that we began our debate with the contributions of intergovernmental and regional organizations, like NAM and ASEAN. They promote the genuine and enduring cooperation that is essential to defeating terrorism. They are in sync with the UN's Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. With the historic adoption in 2006 of that Strategy and its Plan of Action, the international community moved from platitudes to platform in the fight against terrorism.

Mr. Chairman, since the adoption by the General Assembly of Resolution 49/60 in 1995, the exchange of relevant information among Member States, international and regional organizations has been crucial in our cooperation. Mention must be made of the work of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate. Their work has contributed to the exchange of best practices as well as capacity building, especially among our security and law enforcement agencies.

For the Philippines, one of the most important counter-terrorism measures has been intercultural and interfaith dialogue. Respect for human dignity lies at the core of greater understanding and tolerance between and among peoples. The tragedies

wrought by terrorism over the years underscores the need to further strengthen our resolve on interfaith dialogue and the Culture of Peace, and to sustain the continuing engagement of all stakeholders, including civil society, religious NGOs, women, the youth, the academe, and the media. We renew the call for all countries to build upon initiatives in interreligious, interfaith and inter-cultural dialogues, toward the suppression or elimination of international terrorism.

The Philippines also affirms the UN's role in strengthening the international legal architecture by promoting the rule of law, respect for human rights, and effective criminal justice systems.

Mr. Chairman, the Philippine Congress enacted in 2007 Republic Act No. 9372, also known as the Human Security Act. This is our landmark law against terrorism. Within this framework, and in cooperation with international partners including the Financial Action Task Force, the Philippines commits to global efforts to arrest the financing of terrorism through money laundering. Through our Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC), we sustain our active cooperation with the Task Force to implement global anti-money laundering standards. To this end, and in keeping with our commitment to good governance, the Philippine Congress enacted laws to further strengthen the anti-money laundering law (Republic Act No. 10167 as amended by Republic Act No. 10365) and to suppress and prevent terrorist financing (Republic Act No. 10168). Banks and financial institutions are now required to report transactions involving funds with possible links to terrorists.

But while we continue to provide more legal tools and training for law enforcement and judicial authorities to fight terrorism, we also remain cognizant of the respect and protection for civil liberties and human rights.

Mr. Chairman, last April, the Ad Hoc Committee created by General Assembly resolution 51/210 ("Measures to eliminate international terrorism", adopted on 17 December 1996) to elaborate upon a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism convened its 16th session. It appears that after 16 long years of negotiations and two working drafts (i.e., 2002 draft of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and 2007 draft of Coordinator Maria Telalian of Greece), the international community is still not prepared for a consensus on a draft convention.

We need to demonstrate political resolve to conclude negotiations.

The proposed high-level conference on international terrorism should be considered separately from the conclusion of a consolidated text. In addition to overcoming the current impasse and possibly arriving at a definition and delimitation of terrorism, this conference could possibly help address all issues related to the fight against terrorism, including its root causes.

We all know first-hand that fighting the evil of terrorism is very complex and difficult. But rather than being victimized twice over by fear and paralysis, we have become undaunted and more determined. The fight against terrorism should unite us.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.