

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY



**STATEMENT** by

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**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE  
FOR THE 68TH SESSION OF  
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ON THE MEASURES TO ELIMINATE  
INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM**

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Mr. Chairman,

Let me join other representatives congratulating you on your election to the Chairmanship of the Sixth Committee. My congratulations also go to the other members of the Bureau.

We are confident that under your able stewardship we will be in a position to gather desired results from this meeting. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism as an asymmetric warfare continues to pose serious threat to the peace, security, stability and wealth of the member states. Latest heinous terrorist attacks which took place at different parts of the world once again attested the necessity of uniting our efforts to eradicate this menace. We condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

There is no doubt that this global threat requires a global response. It is crucial that we speak today with one voice in reaffirming our determination to commit ourselves to fight against it through the relevant UN resolutions. In that respect this Committee has a particular significance.

Mr. Chairman,

The threat is real and ubiquitous. Nowhere is safe or no one is immune from the threat of terrorism. We need to bear in mind that in the face of such imminent threat, any weakness in reaching consensus in the work of this Committee may give a negative signal. We all need to give the same and clear message to terrorists, namely, there is no safe haven or immunity from criminal justice in light of universal principle of prosecute or extradite.

As a country that has and unfortunately continues to be victimized by terrorism, our longstanding struggle against this menace puts us at the forefront of the global counterterrorism efforts. It is with this understanding that we support and take active part in UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy which has been the linchpin in these efforts.

As Turkey, we will continue our determined stance against terrorism in all its forms, and will defend our people against such heinous acts. We will do so decisively, and with every measure deemed necessary. At the same time, our actions will be fully consistent with democratic principles and the rule of law.

It is clearly the family, friends and loved ones of those who have perished or those who have been injured that bear the real brunt of abhorrent acts of terror. I express my country's full solidarity with the families, friends and loved ones of victims of terrorism all around the world. We share in their grief.

Mr. Chairman,

We should not be discouraged with the increasing number of terrorist attacks around the world. It is not an easy task to eradicate terrorism in a short term. But, with the implementation of a strategy tailored to the features of a region or a country, we may achieve to contain it at its source.

It is evident that terrorism benefit from the violent and turbulent conflicts for recruitment and disseminating their sick narratives. New trends such as the threat from self-radicalized individuals, growing exchange among locally active terrorist groups and the increase in the number of attacks on economically or otherwise sensitive infrastructure require dexterity in our responses.

These facts compel us not only to enhance coherence, complementarity and agility of our existing counter terrorism measures but also to develop new approaches and tools. While new approaches do not necessarily mean ignoring the lessons we had learned, they require political will, structural capacity and most importantly the support of our people, who trust the Governments, to provide for their security.

In that context, I would like to draw attention to the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) which was launched here in New York two years ago. The Forum, co-chaired by Turkey and United States, has been an important instrument to support the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy around the globe and it places particular emphasis on working closely with the United Nations and other relevant multilateral bodies. The GCTF maintains an inclusive, even-handed, and transparent approach to its work while continuing to be an informal, action-oriented, and flexible platform committed to ensuring that it attracts the most capable and experienced CT policymakers and experts to the table.

Mr. Chairman,

Taking into account the close connection between terrorist and other criminal organizations and revenue generated from organized crime is a primary source of terrorist financing, we need to focus on as a priority the corruption, money-

laundering and terrorism financing that enables terrorist and criminal organizations to function.

In fighting against terrorism, including financing of terrorism, effective tools are available to us through relevant UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. At the same time full compliance with the provisions of the international conventions, especially the 13 major conventions on terrorism, is crucial for success in undertaking. The 13 major international conventions on terrorism should be ratified and put into effect by all countries. With this understanding we also expect all Member States to make every effort to conclude the negotiations of the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to stress that no religion or faith can be associated with any act of terrorism. In this regard we strongly deplore any attempt to link Islam with terrorism. We condemn all sorts of incitement to hatred and religious discrimination against Moslems and people of other faiths.

We can only coexist in peace, if tolerance and understanding form the fundamentals of a relation between different civilizations, cultures and faiths. We are of the opinion that continuing international efforts to enhance dialogue and broaden understanding among civilizations, in an effort to prevent the indiscriminate targeting of different religions and cultures, can help counter the forces that fuel polarization and extremism, and will contribute to strengthening the international fight against terrorism. In this respect the Alliance of Civilizations which was launched by Turkey and Spain under the auspices of the Secretary General of the United Nations aims to facilitate harmony and dialogue by emphasizing the common values of different cultures and religions.

Mr. Chairman,

Before concluding my remarks, I would like to emphasize once again that countering terrorism in an effective way can only be achieved through a seamless and genuine cooperation among all Member States in an integrated approach. Having said that, I would like to reiterate Turkey's continued determination to actively take part in the endeavors aimed at combating terrorism.

Thank you.