



ARMENIA

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UNGA 69/ SIXTH COMMITTEE / AGENDA ITEM: 107:

MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR ZOHRAB MNATSAKANYAN,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARMENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. Chair,

On behalf of my Delegation, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election and assure you of the full support of Armenia in your important work. Your able guidance in ensuring proper conduct of the Committee's deliberations is highly appreciated.

Armenia aligns itself with the statement of EU Delegation delivered on this agenda item. In our national capacity, we would like to express our deepest concern regarding the recent escalation of tragic developments as a result of terrorism in different parts of the world. Armenia condemns in the strongest terms the recent terrorist acts and denounce all manifestation of this evil regardless of its geography and motivations.

Mr. Chair,

Last month on the Independence Day of the Republic of Armenia, the Church of All Saint Martyrs in Deir-ez-Zor, Syria, dedicated to the memory of the victims of the Armenian Genocide, where their remains were housed, was mined and blown up by terrorists. Such a barbarity is a criminal Godlessness in no way or shape related to any faith. The catastrophic situation particularly in Syria and north of Iraq continuously deteriorates, and today hundreds of thousands of people are directly imperiled. Among them are tens of thousands Armenians of Aleppo. Terrorists with direct links to Al Qaeda have been specifically targeting Nor Kiugh - Armenian populated neighborhood - since June, 2014, with last week's attacks being the worst yet. Armenia has voiced on numerous occasions the very need to defend the Armenian population of Syria and Yezidi and Christian communities of Iraqi North West, and we are encouraged by the unified stance of the international community in this regard.

The scourge of terrorism has become more diffuse with an increase of terrorist acts including those motivated by intolerance or extremism. We strongly condemn the indiscriminate killing and deliberate targeting of civilians, mass executions and extrajudicial killings, persecution of individuals and entire communities on the basis of their religion or belief, kidnapping of civilians including for the purposes of receiving ransom, forced displacement of members of minority groups, attacks on schools and hospitals, destruction of cultural and religious sites.

Armenia, therefore, supported and welcomed particularly UNSC's recent resolutions 2133, 2170 and 2178 which tackle important issues of foreign terrorist fighters, countering violent extremism and financing of terrorism and kidnapping for ransom among others. The international community should stand united to increase our efforts to work hand in hand towards further strengthening the UN Global CT Strategy (GCTS), which is a key framework to address all dimensions of the terrorism.

No country in the world is immune to terrorism. Those supporting extremist groups and terrorist circles by financing, training, supplying, allowing them to freely roam the borders should be reminded that foreign terrorist fighters pose a serious threat not only to the states to which they travel, but also to their states of origin and transit. Those who encourage widespread manifestations of intolerance and hate speech against another state, nation and/or persons who consider themselves to be of a different origin, including preaching hate speech through social media and education institutions, should be reminded that these may constitute incitement to extreme violence, mass atrocities and breed terrorist ideology.

It is high-time to implement those various international legal instruments dealing with terrorist crimes including cross-boundary terrorist activities. Most of these conventions require states to establish jurisdiction over terrorist offenses committed by their nationals abroad. We would like to highlight the specific role of UNODC, CTITF, CTED in promoting and facilitating cooperation between multiple jurisdictions.

Mr. Chair,

Briefly elaborating on our national experience in countering terrorism, I would like to emphasize that Armenia has continued to take important steps in the fight against international terrorism, which included improvements to its border security, significant changes to export control laws, and holding of and

actively participating in international anti-terrorism workshops and training courses. By implementing its new National Integrated Border Management Strategy, my country installed Border Management Information System (BMIS) and established a new Border and Customs Enforcement Operations Task Force. With the ratification of the International Convention for Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism in 2010, Armenia participated in bilateral and multilateral assistance, security, and training initiatives targeted at strengthening its ability to counter terrorism, terrorist financing, and the smuggling of illicit and hazardous materials. International organizations have registered considerable progress in my country in anti-money laundering and combating financing of terrorism. The Vienna, Palermo and SFT Conventions have been ratified by Armenia and provisions of the Conventions have been effectively implementing. Establishing the Financial Intelligence Unit - the Financial Monitoring Center within the Central Bank of Armenia was a significant step forward towards this goal.

Talking about the regional and international cooperation in countering terrorism I would like to point out that Armenia has been actively engaged in relevant initiatives of the organizations such as CSTO, NATO, EU, CIS and Council of Europe. Armenia was the one of founding members of Rapid Reaction Collective Forces of CSTO which is a rapid deployment for the purpose of prevention of military aggression and conduct of special operations against international terrorism and organized crime. Through new Individual Partnership Action Plan with NATO participation in the Partnership Action Plan on Terrorism my country continues to develop its cooperation on counterterrorism issues with this organization. We continue to collaborate effectively with the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism. Armenia has been extensively engaged with EU in initiatives such as South Caucasus Integrated Border Management project, which facilitates enhanced integrated border security operations.

In conclusion, Armenia reiterates its determination to work together with other member states to redouble the collective efforts to fight against international terrorism and violent extremism whichever form it takes and wherever it happens.

Thank you.