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STATEMENT

BY

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ON

AGENDA ITEM 107:
"MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM"
(A/69/209)

DURING THE

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OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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**Mr. Chairman,
Your Excellencies,
Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Kenya wishes to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman on your appointment as Chair of this Committee. Kenya also wishes to associate itself with the Statements made by the Representative of Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Representative of the Republic of South Africa on behalf of the African Union. We also note the Secretary General's Report contained in document number A/69/209.

Kenya has continued to combat terrorism in all its manifestations, recognizing that it constitutes one of the most serious threats to national peace and security. The country has been a victim of some of the largest and most significant terrorist attacks of the last several decades. These attacks have led to loss of life and have had severe economic consequences in addition to taking a toll on communal harmony.

The terrorist threat in Kenya stems largely from the Al Shabaab, which has not only conducted terror attacks in Kenya but is also engaged in radicalizing and recruiting young people to support their murderous activities. Indeed, radicalization of the youth is the epicenter of terrorism and terrorist activities in Kenya. Most of the recent terror attacks in the country have been carried out by local youth radicalized and recruited by the Al Shabaab. Radicalization is the pipeline for global terrorism that must be shut.

Besides radicalization, the return of Kenyan youths, indoctrinated, trained and having gained experience fighting in Somalia, presents tremendous challenges to safeguarding the country against acts of terrorism. The youths are feeding back into criminal networks and secessionist groups in the country further exacerbating the security threat. The Al Shabaab has also become intrinsically linked with other trans-national crimes including poaching and commodity smuggling.

Since the merger with Al Qaeda, Al Shabaab has strengthened its links with other Al Qaeda affiliates. The relationship between Al-Shabaab and Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), has developed at both ideological and functional levels. This relationship has been manifested in the facilitation of the travel of fighters and weapons between Yemen and Somalia.

Al Shabaab is additionally developing links with other terror groups elsewhere. These include the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, ISIS, as many of Al Shabaab's fighters begin traveling to Syria and Iraq to join the group as Foreign Terrorist Fighters. West African Terror gangs like the Boko Haram are also seeking to

enhance their ideological links with Al Shabaab, as they wage war in pursuit of the establishment of an Islamic caliphate in the region.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorists groups are also working together to maximize the impact of their activities. They are cooperating across the region, transiting borders, using one country to train in, another to raise funds in and another for safe haven. Even as their top leadership are being neutralized and their territories and financing come under threat, groups like Al Shabaab still continue to plan attacks and also try to inspire like-minded extremists to engage in terrorism.

There is no question therefore that governments worldwide must take the path of cooperation and collaboration – sharing intelligence and resources and exchanging expertise and experience in order to eliminate terrorism.

In recognition of that fact, we in Kenya, are constantly reviewing our homeland security policies, strategies and procedures to protect the country from terror attacks. We are investing heavily to combat extremists and terrorists as well as Foreign Terrorist Fighters. These efforts need to be reinforced by global partners, because as we know, the intent of terrorists is to destroy free, secure, democratic nations and people. As long as international terrorism exploits our open, multi-cultural and multi-religious societies and gravely harms our social fabric, our progress towards achieving the goal of a transformative post 2015 paradigm will be slowed.

Mr. Chairman,

The strategies that Kenya has undertaken to tackle terrorism are in line with the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy's four pillars. For instance, among the **measures taken to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism**, the Kenya Constitution, adopted in 2010, has provisions aimed at promoting ethnic, national and religious tolerance, as well as respect for all religions, religious values, cultures or beliefs and a culture of peace, justice and human development. The Kenya National Development Blueprint, the Vision 2030, also contains as national objectives, measures to pursue and reinforce development and social inclusion agendas at every level, which the government is using to develop means to tackle economic hardships and in particular, take measures that will engage the youth in gainful employment, to reduce marginalization and the subsequent sense of victimization that propels extremism and the recruitment of terrorists.

These processes however take time and to date, radicalization and recruitment of youth continues to take place in various parts of the country. Countering radicalization and violent extremism is therefore critical to enhancing Kenya's security. In line with the UN Counter-terrorism pillar of **taking measures to prevent and combat terrorism**, the government is developing and coordinating counter radicalization initiatives to identify and arrest those who seek

to indoctrinate youth, and programs to stop those Kenyan youth most at risk of radicalization from becoming terrorists.

The multi-pronged counter-radicalization strategies employed include:-

- Engagement of the local leadership in the areas affected by radicalization to take responsibility for the youths' actions within their areas of jurisdiction;
- Engagement of moderate religious leaders, including scaling up of Inter-denominational consultative meetings to delegitimize the extremist narrative.
- Engagement of the media, NGOs and Civil Society and; enhanced cooperation with countries that face similar security challenges in countering the spread of extremist ideology .
- Development of a De-Radicalization and Re-Integration programme to assimilate the youth returning from Somalia. This is done in the realization of the need to ensure fairness, observe the rule of law and avoid actions that may provide extremists the base they need to incite potential recruits to violence.

The fragile security environment in Somalia also continues to afford international terrorists a safe haven within which to operate. Kenya together with other nations, therefore continues to engage in Somalia to prevent radical extremism from entrenching itself in the country. The Kenya Defences are part of the AMISOM Mission, which together with the Somalia National Army is involved in operations to help bring peace and stability to Somalia and prevent the country from reverting into a refuge and training ground for Al-Shabaab and other affiliated terrorist organizations.

In that regard, we welcome the AMISOM and Somali National Army's recovery of the port city of Barawe from Al-Shabaab fighters last week, the first time it has been in Somali Government control for more than two decades. This is an important development in terms of cutting off supplies to Al Shabaab militants through the port.

We wish to underscore that sufficient assistance to the AMISOM, particularly in enabling ready access to Force Multipliers in the form of air and marine support is an urgent need and will expedite the elimination of the terror threat posed by Al Shabaab in Somalia.

Mr. Chairman,

It should be noted that, while our counter terrorism efforts in Kenya have foiled several terrorism attempts, the terrorists are undeterred by failures and continue to adapt to security environments. Terrorism evolves and adapts and so therefore must our responses to the threat.

To that end, cooperation against terrorism continues to be enhanced at the regional level, as exemplified by the African Union Peace and Security Council

Summit on Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa which was held in Nairobi on 3rd September 2014. The meeting which came on the heels of a regional meeting of security chiefs dealt extensively with the need for African leaders to work together to curtail Al Qaeda's influence and curb the spread of violent extremism in our region. It contributed further to the coordination of efforts on the continent to strengthen the response to terrorism and its serious threat to international security.

The Kenyan Government has also taken measures to implement **the UN Counter-terrorism pillar of building the State's capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and strengthen the role of the United Nations system.** In this regard and in keeping with the Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005), Kenya has continued to work with the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) to bolster its ability and that of other United Nations Member States to prevent terrorist acts both within our borders and across regions.

As part of those efforts, Kenya has hosted and participated in a number of national and regional workshops organized in concert with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) of the CTC, bringing together stakeholders from law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, the Judiciary and members of civil society to identify common challenges, opportunities and measures to counter violent extremism and enhance cooperation in combating terrorism. This has helped participants to better understand the threat and drivers of extremism in the region, identify ways to counter violent extremism, strengthen resilience of local communities, as well as build law enforcement and prosecution capacity to deal with the planners and perpetrators of terrorist acts.

Kenya will continue to support the work of the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) in helping states to implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the coordination by the UN system, as well as the efforts of the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee to strengthen States' capacity to prevent and combat this scourge effectively.

Kenya has and will also continue to support the effective implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), as well as the efforts of international cooperation within the framework of the 1540 Committee.

Terrorism is a challenge to all States and to all of humanity, and cannot be justified on ideological, political, religious, or on any other ground. It is essential to strengthen international cooperation, since no single state can tackle terrorism alone. We therefore fully endorse this discussion on elimination of terrorism which we must all join hands in combating.

I thank you for your kind attention.