

**Statement by Egypt on behalf of the OIC Group
before the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly
on item 107 “Measures to eliminate international terrorism”**

New York, 7 October 2014

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor 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.

Mr. Chairman,

On 24 September 2014, more than 120 prominent Muslim scholars from around the world sent an open letter to the fighters and followers of the so-called “Islamic State”, offering a comprehensive Islamic refutation, point-by-point, to the philosophy of this terrorist organization.

The OIC Group, its scholars and peoples strongly denounce all terrorists’ atrocities around the world, since it contradicts with the practices of Islam and its principles that call for justice, kindness, fairness, freedom of faith and coexistence.

We reaffirm 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.

While the group of OIC takes note of the recent statements of the President of the United States, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and others, who dissociated Islam from terrorist organizations, we strongly condemn all attempts by some politicians to link Islam with terrorism to achieve their own selfish interests, such attempts play in the hands of terrorists and constitute any advocacy of religious hatred, discrimination and hostility against Muslims.

In this context we reiterate the importance of promoting dialogue, understanding and cooperation among religions, cultures and civilizations for peace and harmony in the world and welcome in this regard all international and regional initiatives and efforts.

Mr. Chairman,

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 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 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 the General Assembly resolution 46/51 which also endorses this position.

The OIC reaffirms that the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GA resolution 60/288) constitutes an ongoing effort and is a living document, which should be up-dated and re-examined regularly. The Group also reaffirms that the Counter-Terrorism Strategy should be implemented in a balanced manner in all its aspects. The Group urges the member States to cooperate for banning the payment of ransoms claimed by terrorist Groups

We stress on the importance of enhancing capacity-building of member states to assist them in the implementation of various obligations of UN resolutions, through increasing the resources for UN entities and departments entrusted with this task, as well as enhancing bilateral technical assistance and transfer of technology.

Mr. Chairman,

The General Assembly remains seized of the pending issue of the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT). 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.

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 recognizes that the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) has started its work as part of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Force (CTITF) Office in New York following the contribution agreement signed by the United Nations and the Government of Saudi Arabia, and that it is performing its duties in supporting the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, fostering international cooperation, strengthen the Organization's capacity-building efforts. We encourage all member states to take advantage of its activities.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.
