

STATEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

Item 107 – Measures to eliminate international terrorism
Sixth Committee, 69 session of the United Nations General Assembly
07 October 2014

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Before anything else, let me congratulate you on our election as our Chairman. We have every confidence in your wisdom and leadership, and you can count on our support and friendship.

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.

No single country can defeat terrorism. Like many, the Philippines continues to face its threats. That is why we need to stay vigilant. We need to keep enhancing our cooperation at all levels. That is the *raison d'être* of our Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Last June, during our fourth biennial review of that Strategy, we renewed our commitment to implement its Plan of Action through the four pillars.

It is fitting to begin our debate with the contributions of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations or (ASEAN). NAM and ASEAN, and many other intergovernmental and regional organizations, promote the genuine cooperation that is essential to defeating terrorism. Accordingly, we associate ourselves with the statements delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran and by the Lao People's Democratic Republic, on behalf of NAM and ASEAN, respectively. As had been said earlier, the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism fosters more effective criminal justice systems throughout our region by providing more legal tools for law enforcement and judicial authorities. At the same, the Convention respects, protects and upholds the rule of law, especially civil liberties and human rights.

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

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. The collective work of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate have all contributed to the exchange of best practices and capacity building, especially among our security and law enforcement agencies.

For the Philippines and many others, interfaith, interreligious and intercultural dialogue has been a cornerstone toward the suppression or elimination of terrorism. It is anchored on respect for human dignity and greater understanding and tolerance among peoples. It rejects extremism. We must further strengthen and build upon this dialogue

and the Culture of Peace, and sustain the continuing engagement of all stakeholders, including civil society, religious NGOs, women, the youth, the academe, and the media.

Last September 24, we co-sponsored Security Council resolution 2178 on foreign terrorist fighters, because we believe that resolute and immediate action is necessary to suppress the so-called ISIS and their false ideologies.

Last year, I informed the Committee of recent national legislation against money laundering and terrorist financing¹ to strengthen our landmark law on terrorism, the Human Security Act of 2007.² The Financial Action Task Force has taken note of the work of our Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) against the financing of terrorism, consistent with accepted global standards.

There are also currently three pieces of draft legislation before the Philippine Congress on strategic trade management involving dual use goods, the Chemical Weapons Convention, and the Biological Weapons Convention.

On execution, Mr. Chairman, the Philippines continues its grassroots-based efforts to help communities understand and protect themselves against extremist terrorist propaganda. We implement the Target Hardening Program to raise their security awareness. We help train them to monitor and prevent terrorist attacks against vital installations and critical infrastructures, economic key points, and places of convergence. We also implement a Football for Peace program, which brings together children from conflict areas not only for sports clinics, but also to transform their outlook in life from “a culture of violence” to that of “a culture of peace.”

Last March, the European Union and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) established the Southeast Asia Regional Secretariat of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Risk Mitigation Centers of Excellence in Manila. It has begun work on a CBRN National Action Plan with the Philippine Government.

On the bilateral front, the Philippines signed in May a Memorandum of Understanding on Combating International Terrorism with Indonesia.

Mr. Chairman, after 17 long years and two working drafts from the Ad Hoc Committee created by General Assembly resolution 51/210 (1996), we are still debating a draft convention on international terrorism. We need to demonstrate political resolve to conclude negotiations. The Philippines reiterates its support for the creation of a working group to finalize the process on a draft comprehensive convention, pursuant to paragraph 24 of resolution 68/119 (2013).

Fighting terrorism is very complex and difficult, and the rise in extremism that we see today has made us become undaunted and more determined than ever.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

¹ Republic Act No. 10167, as amended by Republic Act No. 10365; Republic Act No. 10168.

² Republic Act No. 9372.