



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement by Mr. Lee Moon-hee

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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

General Assembly Sixth Committee

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Mr. Chairman,

As this is our first statement, my delegation would like to take this opportunity to extend its warm congratulations on your election as the chairman of the 6th committee. Our congratulations also go to other members of the bureau. I am confident that we will achieve substantive progress under your able leadership. I would also like to commend the tireless effort of the secretariat in preparing this meeting.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism today has no nationality and respects no borders. The recent savagery of terrorist groups and foreign terrorist fighters are posing new threats well beyond the region. My delegation strongly condemns the ongoing terrorist attacks in Iraq, in Syria, and surrounding areas. We are appalled by the brutality and cruelty of these extremists, and we would like to express our sincere condolences to all victims and their families.

My delegation would like to reiterate our firm condemnation of terrorism in all its forms. No cause, no grievance can justify these acts of violence. The international community must stand united in the fight against terrorism, and we would like to reaffirm our commitment to this joint effort. We also commend the efforts of the Secretary-General and relevant UN organs in leading international cooperation in this field. In this regard, we welcome the recent adoption of the Security Council Resolution 2178, which

aims at countering the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, and stress the importance of effective implementation of the obligations under the resolution.

The Republic of Korea has also been making active efforts to contribute to the global efforts to fight terrorism. As the host of the Seoul Conference on Cyberspace last year, the Republic of Korea strived to raise awareness on the importance of promoting international cooperation to reduce emerging threats stemming from the malicious use of information and communication technology. The heightened awareness on the importance of information technology became more relevant in coping with today's terrorist threats, as terrorist groups use these technologies to spread their ideology, expand their networks, and develop more sophisticated financing methods. The Republic of Korea has also been providing assistance to improve the capacity of countries to combat terrorism in a wide range of areas.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism breeds on different plagues of our society, such as discrimination, exclusion, inequality. A sustained and comprehensive approach is therefore crucial to deal with the evolving scope and nature of the terrorist threats, and to reintegrate extremists into society. In this regard, we support the efforts to implement the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which aims at addressing the key components of terrorism, notably terrorists, weapons, funding, and networks.

We would also like to emphasize the importance of implementing obligations under international law and respecting the fundamental values of the international community. The persistence and severity of terrorist attacks, flagrantly violating and destroying humanity, remind us that countering terrorism is an essential part of promoting human rights and the rule of law. It is time to reaffirm our political will and redouble our efforts to this end by developing a normative and legal framework that encompasses our shared values.

In the last few years, the negotiations for the Comprehensive Convention in International Terrorism remained at an impasse, and substantial challenges remain. The threats and sufferings we face today, however, call for flexibility in order to bring the negotiations to a close. We believe it is imperative to go forward, go beyond our differences.

We reiterate our commitment in the effort to reach an agreement on the draft comprehensive convention. In this regard, we welcome the establishment of the Working Group with a view to finalizing the draft comprehensive convention. We remain committed to working with other delegations, and look forward to the active role of the Working Group in achieving fruition of its efforts.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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