

Mr. Chairman,

Let me first of all join previous speakers to warmly congratulate you and your country for your election to lead the affairs of the 6th Committee during the 69th session. I would like to assure you and the other members of the Bureau of the support and cooperation of my delegation to make your tenure productive and successful. I also want to take this opportunity to associate my delegation with the statement of Iran delivered on this agenda item on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement and that of South Africa delivered on behalf of the African Group. Mr. Chairman, I now wish to deliver the statement in my national capacity.

International terrorism is the present day scourge and a menace that is constantly threatening international peace and security and we therefore out rightly condemn it in all its forms and manifestations as it is barbaric, inhuman and pose a danger to progress and development. It now threatens not only one state or region, but the whole international community. Terrorists are making the world a place that is unsafe for us to live as civilized people. Terrorism is therefore a challenge to international peace and order and the international community must therefore rise up to the challenge to fight and eradicate it in all its forms from the face of the earth completely and permanently. The rate at which terrorists have developed their skills and sophistication of their strategies to coordinate and fund their activities and exerting their influence on fragile states is alarming. Those who think that the diabolical activities of terrorists is not their concern are making a very sad mistake, because it is only a matter of time for them to begin to feel the pinch of this modern day scourge.

International terrorism cannot be a legitimate option by any group of persons. The wanton destruction of infrastructure, the brutal killing of innocent people, the rape of women and young girls, the beheading of innocent civilians cannot be justified by any argument

that may be proffered. Terrorism threatens the core principles upon which the United Nations is founded: respect for human rights, the Rule of Law, respect and tolerance of the views of others and so on. My delegation strongly condemns terrorism, wherever it has manifested itself in the Middle East, Asia, Africa and other parts of the world. We condemn their barbaric acts which they try to justify in the name of Islam. Islam is a peaceful religion and those who practice true Islam are peace loving and God fearing people who seek the development and progress of the human race.

The threat that is posed to the socio-economic development of small states is not difficult to envisage. The attainment of Post 2015 Development agenda will be seriously jeopardized if international terrorism remains unchecked.

International terrorism should be considered as a cancer. If cancer affects the toe and it is not cured, with time, it will spread to the rest of the other parts of the body. The international community of states should be regarded as a holistic organism that can only survive if all its various parts are healthy and functional.

Mr. Chairman,

Gone are the days where a small group of people who erroneously believe that they can impose their will and misguided ideologies on others through the use of force and terror tactics. People of the world should be free to choose the kind and system of Government under which they want to live and be governed.

The defeat of international terrorism requires the concerted effort of each and every state. My delegation will therefore like to underscore the commendable work of the United Nations Center for Counter-Terrorism and the impressive efforts of the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. We also welcome all the initiatives of the Secretary-General and commend him for the report

provided on this important agenda item and the recommendations contained therein. We also strongly endorsed and support all General Assembly and Security Council resolutions that are related to Counter-Terrorism including the most recently adopted resolution on Foreign Terrorist Fighters. We particularly support the establishment of a Working Group that has been tasked to speed up the completion of a Comprehensive Convention on terrorism. We strongly urge all states to put aside national differences in order to pave the way for the proposed Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

In the fight against international terrorism, my delegation will like to put forward the following recommendations:

- The source of funding of terrorists organizations should be identified and stopped.
- Terrorists should be deprived of easy access to arms and ammunition. We therefore continue to call on all those states which have not done so to ratify the UN Arms Trade Treaty.
- Cooperation and information sharing between states on terrorist activities should be strengthened.
- Building the capacities of small states in counter-terrorism intelligence should be intensified. Small states are not only vulnerable, but can be easy targets.
- States should speed up the enactment of very robust anti-terrorist legislations, *that conform with international standards,*
- The capacities of small states should also be increased to tackle money laundering challenges.
- The coordination of the strategies of regional and sub-regional organizations should also be strengthened.
- Support for and rehabilitation of victims of international terrorism should be prioritized.
- Countries that provide support, funding, training and a safe haven for terrorists should be identified and named.

- Perpetrators of heinous crimes of terrorism should be identified and brought to book.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion my delegation will like to underscore the following: that the fight against terrorism should be carried out within the confines of international public law, human rights law, humanitarian law and respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of states. That more time and energy should be devoted to end the old age conflicts in the world particularly in the Middle East in a definitive manner. That the commitments contained in UN resolutions on counter terrorism must be reflected in strict and genuine implementation of same by all member states.

Finally, we wish to add our voice to those delegations that have already expressed support for a high level conference that will consider terrorism in-depth in all its ramifications particularly its causes with a view to finding a permanent and lasting solution.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.