



Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations

STATEMENT

BY

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Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Let me join other delegations in congratulating you on your assumption of Chairmanship of the sixth committee of the 70th session of the UNGA and your bureau members for their well-deserved elections. We look forward to working closely with you and assure you of our full support and cooperation throughout the deliberations of issues concerned to this committee.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

Violent extremism and conflict not only threaten the collective security of all member states but also pose a serious challenge to our fundamental values of equality, tolerance, justice, and human dignity. With the continued persistence of destructive conflicts around the world, the international community now witnesses the emergence of increasingly violent forms of extremism that disproportionately affects civilians, especially women and children. These threats are neither constrained by international borders nor limited to any single ideology; these groups misrepresent and abuse religious edicts to achieve their objectives. We are faced with international terrorism that is far more violent, organized, well positioned (in some cases, even within state structures), well financed and often transcending international boundaries. The rise in conflicts worldwide, especially in the Middle East, Afghanistan, and parts of Africa is especially troublesome because civilian populations continue to pay the price in the form of dislocation and collapse of government services, particularly education, healthcare and economic development. According to a 2014 UNHCR report, worldwide displacement is at its highest at 59.5 million as conflict and persecution force more people than at any other time to flee their homes and seek refuge and safety elsewhere. The unprecedented movement of refugees across parts of Asia, the Middle East and Europe is a testament to this unfolding catastrophe.

The current global scenario of rise of various non-state actors promoting extremism indicates that terrorist organizations are increasingly replacing traditional groups with more sophisticated forms of operations that include political structures, administrative units, social media propaganda, and new forms of technology-based coordination, in addition to access to funding and recruits. Despite ongoing efforts by the international community, increasing conflicts worldwide, especially in the Middle East, and growing indoctrination and radicalization of impressionable young men and women, as evident from the sustained flow of foreign terrorist fighters to conflicts in various countries, make it imperative to find political solutions to conflicts and ensure peace and stability for all citizens. There is a pressing need for all member states to cooperate closely to address the issues of terrorism, violent extremism, and indoctrination;

further implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2178 would be beneficial to achieve this goal.

Mr. Chairman,

In 2015, following the withdrawal of tens of thousands of international troops and the establishment of the National Unity Government of Afghanistan, Taliban and other terrorist groups accelerated their brutal campaign through the so called spring and summer offensives against the Afghan people. Subsequent to the belated announcement of the mysterious death of the fabricated leader of the Taliban, leadership struggles and factional infighting within the Taliban due to a lack of a leader intensified. In order to divert the focus and unify their ranks, the Taliban increased the number of violent, brazen attacks that have taken the lives of many civilians and Afghan National Defense and Security Forces.

Our security forces are at the forefront of the international war on terrorism; they have defended Afghanistan, the region and the world at large against various external terrorist elements and have fought with bravery in the face of tremendous hardships. Today they continue to fight thousands of international terrorists and groups such as Taliban and the Haqqani Network, the Islamic State or Daesh, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan among others. Despite heavy casualties during the recent offensives of these terrorist groups, our security forces have derailed and prevented many terrorist plots and succeeded in killing and capturing scores of enemy combatants, including significant number of foreign terrorist fighters. Generally, the terrorists have not managed to hold the ground they gain anywhere in Afghanistan.

Mr. Chairman,

We firmly believe that militancy and extremism will never serve the long-term interests of any country. It is unfortunate that these terrorists fighting in Afghanistan still receive support and guidance, as well as find sanctuaries outside our borders. The use of violent non-state actors and terrorists for proxy wars must come to an end. Rival states should not turn a third country into a battleground to advance their agenda. No doubt, states are naturally concerned about advancing their national and regional interests; but it must be noted that states have no right whatsoever to pursue their interests through violence and extremism. In the past 20 years, Afghanistan has been a victim of regional state orchestrated violence leading to insecurity and tremendous suffering for our people. Unless the mentality of using violence in pursuit of political objective changes, achieving peace in Afghanistan will be very difficult.

Mr. Chairman,

Afghanistan strongly supports a comprehensive approach in addressing these threats. In our pursuit of lasting peace, our counter-terrorism and diplomatic efforts will continue unabated. The National Unity Government of Afghanistan continues to engage its neighbours to promote regional cooperation and provide a comprehensive approach in addressing the threat from terrorism. Regional organizations and processes play an important role in fulfilling our aims in this regard. The Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process addresses this initiative. Strengthening border cooperation, inter-agency coordination and most importantly building confidence and trust among our neighbours, in particular with Pakistan, and other countries in the region is of utmost importance to our shared efforts in defeating terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

A comprehensive strategy to combat terrorism and violent extremism needs to be long-term and multilateral in nature. This strategy must deal with poverty, marginalization, and economic inequality that provide the enabling conditions for recruitment and promote education and critical thinking. We look forward to the Action Plan which the Secretary General will be presenting to the General Assembly this year. I would also like to highlight the need to achieve the early conclusion of a Comprehensive Convention for Combating International Terrorism. Finally we welcome the Fifth Biennial Review Process of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy which is to take place in June next year.

As a country that has long suffered from the menace of international terrorism and resulting violence, Afghanistan strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and remains firmly committed to continue the fight at the forefront of the global campaign against international terrorism.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.