



STATEMENT

by

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
TO THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

ON BEHALF OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

ON AGENDA ITEM 107

**“MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL
TERRORISM”**

**United Nations, New York
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Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the fourteen Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

At the outset, I wish to congratulate you on your election to the Chairmanship of the Sixth Committee and extend best wishes to you and the other distinguished members of the Bureau. We also wish to reiterate our full support and cooperation in the work of the Committee during this 70th Regular, and significant anniversary session, of the United Nations General Assembly.

CARICOM aligns itself with the statements made by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and by Ecuador on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism constitutes a flagrant violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the rule of law, and the principles of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

In this regard, CARICOM remains concerned over the escalation in acts of terrorism in various parts of the world. We are also deeply concerned by the increase in the number of foreign terrorist fighters who have pledged allegiance to terrorist groups whose actions have caused mayhem and strife.

Terrorism poses serious threats to security at all levels. It has no respect for territorial borders, race, age, gender or social class. No State is immune from this menace. Against this background, CARICOM wishes to recall that our region has not been spared and is still awaiting justice for the victims of a terrorist act which occurred almost four decades ago with the hijacking and bombing of an aircraft over the Caribbean Sea.

CARICOM reaffirms its strong condemnation of such heinous acts which have caused enormous loss of human life, destruction and damage to property. We are also committed to honour the provisions of resolution 69/127 on the subject.

Consequently, CARICOM underscores the urgent need for closer international collaboration and cooperation in order to effectively combat the scourge of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The wave of terrorist activities has made it clear that the perpetrators of these nefarious crimes should not continue to act with impunity. There is no circumstance

under which terrorism could be justified. All member States need to work together to spearhead global action in the fight against terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

The elimination of international terrorism remains a key priority on our regional security agenda. In accordance with the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy of 2006, CARICOM has resolved to take practical steps to prevent and combat terrorism. We remain committed to addressing those conditions which contribute to the spread of terrorist activities, building States' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism, ensuring respect for the human rights of all and the rule of law, and implementing relevant conventions and protocols which address terrorism. In this vein, several CARICOM States have enacted legislation based on international conventions to prevent and counter acts of international terrorism as well as the financing of acts of terrorism or terrorist groups. We have also put in place measures to implement relevant Security Council resolutions which address terrorism.

We urge those States which have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to relevant anti-terrorism conventions and protocols with a view to combating terrorism and the financing of terrorist groups and ensuring that perpetrators of such gruesome acts are brought to justice.

In combating terrorism, CARICOM underlines that measures should be in accordance with international law, namely, international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law. We are of the view that counter terrorism strategies adopted outside the parameters of international law can potentially blur the line between measures taken to fight terrorism and those taken to promote it.

Mr. Chairman,

As we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, we wish to echo the theme of the General Debate, *"the UN at 70: the road ahead for peace, security and human rights"*, which should also be viewed as a call for the international community to play a more active role in combating terrorism, particularly through strengthening the multilateral rules-based regime governing this subject.

The time to take more progressive action on the draft Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism (the Convention) is long overdue. CARICOM, therefore, urges Member States to resolve outstanding political differences, particularly those related to the legal definition of international terrorism and the scope of acts to be included in the

convention, with a view to finally achieving consensus on the Convention before the end of this session of the General Assembly.

In our view, should the Convention have the stamp of approval of all States, it would be a formidable arsenal in the battle against terrorism. The Convention would facilitate, among other things, measures relating to the prosecution of terrorists and the strengthening of the institutional capacity of States, especially small States, in order to successfully combat terrorism.

CARICOM also underscores the importance of convening the high-level conference on international terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations. We do not view the hosting of such a conference as a prelude to the finalization of the text of the draft resolution. However, we believe that it would be a useful opportunity for Member States to interact with representatives of the various counter-terrorism committees, as well as other actors on ways of enhancing the implementation of resolutions and treaties concerned with the prevention and suppression of international terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

In closing, CARICOM reaffirms its unequivocal commitment to continue to work in close collaboration with Member States under the ambit of the United Nations to combat international terrorism.