



GEORGIA

70th Session of the General Assembly, Sixth Committee

Statement by Ms. Inga Kanchaveli, Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations

Agenda item 108 "Measures to eliminate international terrorism"

New York, October 12, 2015

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by congratulating you and the other members of the bureau on your assumption of the chairmanship of the Sixth Committee. As we look forward to your competent and prudent leadership, allow me to assure you the full support from Georgian delegation in all your important endeavors.

Georgia aligns itself with the statement made by the EU delegation on today's topic and I'd like to make the following remarks in my national capacity. Let me first express our deep sorrow over the explosion in Ankara, Turkey on 10 Oct 2015, killing dozens of people and leaving more than hundred injured. Georgia strictly condemns any manifestation of violence and extremism and puts particular emphasis on the international community's consolidated efforts to effectively fight the terrorism worldwide.

Mr. Chairman,

Georgia as a responsible member of the international community opposes any form of terrorism and acknowledges the growing threat of international terrorism and its new forms. The national anti-terrorist policy of Georgia aims at providing security for Georgian citizens and state and non-state institutions.

Georgia is a party to all 14 UN antiterrorism conventions and to relevant instruments. The Georgian government has conducted robust measures in order to improve the implementation of UNSC 1373, 1624 and 2178 resolutions. As a result, a substantial package of amendments to the criminal code of Georgia was adopted which expands the

scope of the approaches to those serious problematic issues connected with terrorism and violent extremism. The Criminal Code of Georgia contains separate provision regulating the cyber terrorism and financing of terrorism.

Georgia enhanced its counterterrorism capacities by establishing a solid interagency mechanism through creation of Extreme Situations Management Operational Headquarters and setting up a counterterrorism working group in order to improve interagency coordination.

At the bilateral level, Georgia has concluded bilateral international agreements/MoUs on cooperation, including cooperation in terrorism-related issues, with 25 countries and the number of such countries is gradually increasing. Georgia uses the secure channels existing within the frames of regional organizations, namely within GUAM, for the exchange of relevant information. Police attaché channels are widely applied for sharing the information as well. Georgia is also a party to CoE - Committee of Experts on Terrorism (CODEXTER).

We fully support the US led cooperative effort to counter ISIL and as stated earlier we are ready to participate in the humanitarian relief effort to alleviate the suffering of those affected in Iraq and Syria.

Georgia actively cooperates with partner countries in order to reveal Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF) and to prevent their illegal activities. Georgia has already joined three counter-ISIL working groups on counter-financing, counter-messaging and foreign terrorist fighters. We hope that the work of these groups will further increase coordination and exchange of views among the coalition members. In order to counter the recruitment of our nationals as foreign terrorist fighters, the Government of Georgia strengthened Georgia's overall border security to a greater extent. Thus, their movement through border crossing points of Georgia is strictly limited to the maximum possible extent (for example: personnel at border crossing points are provided with the duly updated consolidated list of individuals sanctioned by respective UNSC resolutions).

Mr. Chairman,

The risk posed by the occupation of 20% of our territory is our most important problem. The occupied territories of Georgia, like other grey zones of the world where international control mechanisms are either non-existent or very weak, contain serious potential of being used for various sorts of illegal activities, including for terrorism related ones.

The fact that in recent years there have been several attempts of nuclear and radioactive materials smuggling via the occupied Georgian territory further amplifies the sense of danger. It must be underlined that these kinds of challenges should represent a matter of concern not only for individual countries, but for the international community as a whole.

Excellencies,

Before concluding, I wish to reiterate the Georgian side's readiness for constructive and open cooperation aimed at strengthening security and downsizing negative effects posed by emerging challenges that are typical to our rapidly developing world.

In this regard I would like to mention Georgia's support and active contribution to the international anti-terrorist operations. To name the one, Georgia is one of the largest non-NATO troop-contributors to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan and continues to serve as a transit country for ISAF supplies. Bearing in mind all the tremendous efforts and sacrifices made in Afghanistan, Georgia intends to stay the largest non-NATO troop contributor with no drawdown until the end of the ISAF operation.

Mr. Chairman,

Fighting with international terrorism remains on the top agenda of the Government of Georgia and it will continue its efforts in this direction. Georgia as a reliable ally and capable partner will remain consistent in its efforts to ensure security and stability in the region and around the globe. We believe it is only with joint efforts and commitment that we can stop, reverse and prevent such violent actions from happening.

I thank you.