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**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

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**Statement by:**

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**Sixth Committee**

**Agenda Item 108**

**Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism**

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**United Nations**

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Thank you Mr. Chairman.

I would like to take this opportunity and congratulate you on your election as the chairman of the 6<sup>th</sup> Committee and to assure you that you have the full support of my delegation.

I would like also to congratulate you - Huw - on your recent appointment as Head of the Codification Division.

In Israel, the threat of terrorism is far from theoretical. Over the course of the past two weeks, my country is facing a relentless and brutal campaign of terror, including car bombs, stabbings and stoning. Over 25 terror attacks took place in cities across the country, killing and injuring innocent Israeli civilians. I will highlight just a few from the recent two weeks.

During the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, terrorists stabbed and killed Nehemia Lavi, father of seven and murdered Aharon Bennett, whose wife and 2-year-old son were also attacked and injured.

These events were followed by an attack on Eitam and Na'ama Henkin, who were killed in a shooting attack on their vehicle while their four children were in the back seat.

And just a few hours ago, 2 more young civilians were attacked – including a 13 year old boy, who was brutally stabbed while riding his bicycle.

Israel confronts these threats on all its frontiers. Last summer we saw once again the cruel and cynical enemy we face in Gaza, which knows no red lines, and which violates every code of morality. Hamas, an internationally recognized terrorist organization, launched thousands of rockets and mortars at Israeli civilians from residential areas. They set up their military command centers in hospitals and schools, abused UN facilities for weapons storage and as launching pads and exploited innocent civilians as human shields.

Israelis have also been targeted in the North, where Hezbollah stores thousands of rockets in heavily populated neighborhoods and embeds its military infrastructure in civilian areas as it prepares for the next round of attacks against Israel.

Mr. Chairman,

If the international community is serious about eliminating terrorism, it must start with its world's leading sponsor - the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iran's bloody fingerprints can be found on hundreds of terror campaigns that have claimed thousands of innocent lives. These terror attacks are planned, funded and executed through

Iran's revolutionary Guard Forces under the command of the prime architect of terror: Qassem Suleimani.

If the international community thought Iran's behavior would *change* after the agreement with the P5+1, we have received already a clear message to *the contrary*. Khamenei, the Supreme Leader of Iran, declared – even *before* signing the agreement – that Iran would continue to support terrorists in the Middle East and around the world. *After* signing it, Khamenei clearly added that Iran's goal is to eliminate Israel from the map in 25 years.

Iran will not change its behavior. But let me assure you that Israel will *always* remain on the map. The question is how much more death and destruction Iran will cause before the international community will respond.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite the gravity of these threats, Israel does its utmost to ensure that any measure taken to combat terrorism complies with its obligations under international law. Doing so certainly does not make our struggle against terror any easier, but we have matched our determination to combat terrorism with our commitment to respect the rule of law.

International terrorism cannot operate without the continuous flow of funds. The Security Council has recognized the danger of state-sponsored terrorism and has repeatedly called on all states to prevent the financing of terrorists and terrorist organization.

Israel sees the targeting of financial resources that support terrorism as a major counter-terrorism tool available to states. Disrupting the funding can effectively interrupt the growth and activity of terrorist organizations around the world. In this respect, it has been our experience that financial measures such as designations and the freezing of assets can fulfill the goal of preventing the next deadly terror attacks. These measures must be supported by intelligence sharing and cooperation by states.

Israel is party to the core universal instruments on counter terrorism and is a dedicated partner in the global fight against terrorism. Israel fully implements Security Council resolution 1373 and adapted its legislation to ensure compliance with Security Council resolution 1267.

Furthermore, Israel welcomes the adoption of Security Council Resolution on Foreign Terrorist Fighters. Resolution 2178 provides a strong example of how existing mechanisms can be utilized to counter new and emerging threats.

Mr. Chairman,

Israel recognizes and supports the central role of the United Nations in countering terrorism worldwide. We look forward to fully engaging in the fifth review of the United Nations Counter Terrorism Global Strategy. In particular, we join the call to implement all four pillars of the Strategy in an integrated and balanced manner.

Identifying and addressing the emerging threats is key to ensuring that this strategy is relevant and up to date. The global landscape is changing before our eyes. If we use old maps to navigate these new challenges, we will end up on the road to nowhere.

Mr. Chairman,

Out of necessity, Israel has become an expert in the field of counterterrorism and we are sharing our knowledge with governments throughout the world. We have contributed our expertise on a broad range of issues – from combatting the financing of terrorism, to forensic investigation methods and technologies, and from aviation security to border protection.

A few months ago, an Israeli prosecutor participated in a special meeting of the CTC on “Stemming the Flow of Foreign Terrorist Fighters”, which was held in Madrid.

In the framework of our efforts to counter violent extremism, next month Israel will host the second International Conference on the challenge of the so called Lone Wolf phenomena, organized together with CTED, UNODC and OSCE.

These activities reflect our fundamental belief that terrorism can only be effectively confronted through international cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

The only way for the international community to combat the threat of terrorism is by implementing a "zero tolerance" approach. Terrorism cannot run without the fuel of incitement, intolerance, hatred and the glorification of deaths and martyrdom. Any plan to cultivate a culture of peace and co-existence must focus on education.

The discussion on this topic has been on our agenda at the 6<sup>th</sup> Committee for many years. Yet, there are several unresolved issues we have not been able to overcome. We must begin with agreeing on a clear definition of terrorism, that includes all forms and manifestations of terror. Any failure to do so would compromise our ability to combat terrorism effectively and send a victory message to terror organizations. We will listen carefully to the views of other member states expressed on this.

Mr. Chairman,

To conclude, terror and violent extremism are a threat we cannot ignore. Unfortunately, for Israelis it is part of our daily reality. We hope and believe that these efforts will help us win the battle that we cannot afford to lose and the message from this committee must be loud and clear: there is no cause or grievance that justifies terrorism.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.