



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

335 East 45th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017
Tel (212) 439-4000, Fax (212) 986-1083

Statement by Mr. RHEE Zha Hyoung
Counsellor of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations
General Assembly Sixth Committee
Measures to eliminate international terrorism
14 October 2015
New York

<Check against delivery>

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, my delegation would like to join other delegations in taking this opportunity to extend its warm congratulations on your election as the chairman of the 6th committee. Our congratulations also go to other members of the bureau. I am confident that we will achieve substantive progress under your able leadership and guidance. I would also like to commend the tireless effort and dedication of the secretariat in preparing this meeting.

Mr. Chairman,

The recent savagery of terrorist groups and foreign terrorist fighters are posing new threats well beyond the region. The terrorist acts by ISIL and other transnational terrorist organizations continue to claim countless innocent lives and cause unprecedented scale of refugees, particularly with the increased number of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs). The security implications that stem from the increase of FTFs, many of whom return to their home countries, pose a serious threat to the larger international community. My delegation strongly condemns the ongoing terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, especially in Iraq, in Syria, and surrounding areas. We are appalled by the brutality and cruelty of these extremists, and we would like to express our sincere condolences and sympathy to all the governments and bereaved families of the victims of the scourges of terrorism.

In this regard, we commend the efforts of the Secretary-General and relevant UN organs in leading the fight against international terrorism. Given the lack of adequate enforcement mechanisms in the international community, it is essential that each country faithfully and fully implement relevant Security Council resolutions at the national level, while bolstering mutual cooperation with a view to bridging gaps and limitations.

The Republic of Korea, as a party to all the major universal conventions against terrorism in effect, has already put in place necessary implementation measures, and is also accelerating its efforts to implement resolutions 2170 and 2178. First, we started the national review process, including joint meetings of all relevant domestic authorities in order to strengthen information sharing, border control, and law enforcement. We are also collecting other countries' best practices through bilateral outreaches. With this ground work soon to be completed, we look forward to sharing our own lessons learned with other countries and strengthening relevant bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism breeds on various plagues of our society, such as discrimination, exclusion, inequality. A sustained and holistic approach is therefore crucial to deal with the evolving scope and nature of the terrorist threats, and to further reintegrate extremists into society. In this regard, we support the efforts to implement the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which aims at addressing the key components of terrorism, notably terrorists, weapons, funding, and networks.

We would also like to emphasize the importance of implementing obligations under international law and respecting the fundamental values of the international community. The persistence and severity of terrorist attacks, flagrantly violating human rights and destroying society, remind us that countering terrorism is an indispensable part of promoting human rights and the rule of law. It is time to reaffirm our political will and redouble our efforts to this end by developing a normative and legal framework that encompasses our shared values.

For the past several years, the negotiations for the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism has remained at an impasse and substantial challenges are yet to be overcome. The scale and dimension of terrorist threats and sufferings we face today, however, call for flexibility in order to bring the negotiations to a close. We believe it is imperative to go forward, rising above our differences. In this regard, the government of the Republic of Korea reiterates its firm commitment to be a constructive part of our concerted efforts to materialize our dream which is way overdue, that is, an agreement on the comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

/End/