

**Statement by H.E. Halit Çevik, Ambassador,
Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations,
at the Sixth Committee for the 70th Session of the General Assembly
on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism
(12.10.2015)**

Mr. Chairman,

Let me join other representatives congratulating you on your election to the Chairmanship of the Sixth Committee. My congratulations also go to the other members of the Bureau. You can rest assured of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism continues to pose a serious threat to international peace and security, as well as to the stability and wealth of states. Far from diminishing, the terrorist threat is constantly evolving, leaving countries before new security challenges. We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Mr. Chairman,

Last Saturday, Ankara has been hit by one of the deadliest terrorist attacks in Turkey's recent history. This heinous attack, which has claimed the lives of at least 100 people and injured dozens, has left families, loved ones and the whole nation in grief. This cowardly attacks, only strengthen our resolve to fight this scourge. We are grateful to those who have expressed solidarity with us.

Our long and painful fight against terrorism has taught us that these challenges can only be addressed through international solidarity as well as effective bilateral and multilateral cooperation, because of the global and transnational character of the terror phenomenon.

In this respect, all terrorist organizations ought to be fought with same resolve. A selective approach with regard to terrorist organizations is unacceptable. In particular, a terrorist organization should not and cannot be legitimized, under the pretext that it is fighting another terrorist organization. Similarly, terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality or ethnic group.

It is imperative that all states take necessary measures so that members of terrorist organizations, including PKK and DHKP-C, are brought to justice. In this context, implementation of the universal principle of “extradite or prosecute” is crucial. Under no circumstances, safe havens should be provided to members of terrorist organizations. Turkey firmly believes that a clear message has to be given to terrorists: no act of terrorism should go unpunished.

Turkey expects full implementation of Security Council Resolution 1373. Members of terrorist organizations, including those targeting Turkey, should not be prevented from being brought to justice by the granting of the right to asylum. Likewise states should not turn a blind eye on propaganda, financial and recruitment activities of these terrorist organizations.

Mr. Chairman,

Today, Turkey faces an imminent threat from terrorist organizations DAESH, PKK and DHKP-C.

DAESH and Foreign Terrorist Fighters transiting through Turkey to travel to conflict zones pose a serious and imminent threat to Turkey’s security before anyone else, and Turkish authorities exert every effort to counter it.

In addition to the national measures that we have taken, such as tightened measures at the borders as well as establishment of a no-entry list, which enabled us to prevent a considerable number of foreign terrorist fighters from reaching conflict zones, Turkey, from the very beginning, advocated that FTF are a global threat requiring a global response and called for global co-operation and information sharing. Against this backdrop, Turkey expects timely information sharing about individuals suspected of being foreign terrorist fighters. Cooperation in this field is not yet at a desired level. We observe that some states are reluctant to share information for various reasons. It is important that source countries swiftly take necessary measures in order to prevent foreign terrorist fighters from travelling to conflict zones. In this regard, the Resolution 2178 sets out the same requirements for source, transit and destination countries alike.

Mr. Chairman,

Turkey takes an active stance in the fight against terrorism. We are co-chairing the Global Counter-terrorism Forum. Turkey is also co-chairing the Anti-DAESH Coalition Working Group on Foreign Terrorist Fighters.

Turkey sees the UN as the main platform for promoting a concerted approach against terrorism. Turkey is party to most of the UN conventions and protocols on terrorism. We actively contribute to capacity building efforts and work of the UN agencies such as the UN Counter-terrorism Centre and the Counter-terrorism Implementation Task Force, as well as of regional organizations. Turkey will start capacity-building training in four African countries in partnership with the UN Center for Counter-Terrorism.

It is also with this understanding that we support and take active part in the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Turkey is pleased to have facilitated the latest resolution on the outcome of the Fourth Review of the Strategy in June 2014. We look forward to continuing our cooperation with all our partners in the run up to the 10th year of the adoption of the strategy.

Mr. Chairman,

We cannot ignore the impact of unresolved conflicts and mismanaged crises resulting in mass displacements, intolerance, discrimination and xenophobia, as factors that prepare the ground for violent extremism.

We need to effectively address radicalization, and the root causes that lead young people to embrace violent extremism and we welcome the many steps that have been taken lately by the international community in this regard. The White House Summit on countering violent extremism of February 2015 instigated a new process at global level on countering violent extremism, and we welcomed the more recent Summit on Countering ISIL and violent extremism of 29 September 2015. We look forward to the Action Plan on Preventing Violent Extremism to be presented by the Secretary-General. It is vital to reduce vulnerability to extremist ideologies by addressing conditions conducive to terrorism. In Turkey, several government agencies are involved in these efforts, including security, youth, education and social policy institutions. The Office of Religious Affairs also plays a role in disseminating peaceful messages.

Turkey, as the co-chair of Global Counter Terrorism Forum (GCTF) has been contributing to the debate on countering violent extremism. In four years, we have developed important tools in the form of best practices and framework documents. Most recently, at the 6th Ministerial Meeting of the GCTF held on 26th September 2015, a new initiative to address the life-cycle of radicalization to violence was launched.

Mr. Chairman,

Our efforts to dismantle networks of recruitment, propaganda and finance of terrorist groups should continue. Bearing in mind the close link between terrorism and organized crime, which is a primary source of terrorism financing, our efforts should be sustained in order to prevent crimes such as drug trafficking, money-laundering and arms-smuggling.

In this context, in order to counter oil smuggling attempts by DEASH/ISIL, Turkey adopted many measures at the Turkish-Syrian and Turkish-Iraqi borders, even when the issue of curbing the finances of the organization was not on the agenda of the international community. In the same vein, we have condemned as a crime against humanity the destruction of cultural heritage by DEASH, and taken enhanced steps to prevent smuggling of antiquities from conflict zones.

Mr. Chairman,

In concluding my remarks, I reaffirm Turkey's full commitment to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The strong stance that ought to be taken against terrorism should be firmly grounded on democratic principles and the rule of law.

Thank you.