

# الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية

REPUBLIQUE ALGERIENNE DEMOCRATIQUE ET POPULAIRE

Mission Permanente d'Algérie  
auprès des Nations Unies  
New York



البعثة الجزائرية الدائمة  
لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

Statement by

H.E. Mr. Mohammed Bessedik,  
Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative  
of Algeria to the United Nations

on

**Measures to eliminate international terrorism**

Before

The Legal Committee

New York, 4 October 2016

**Distinguished delegates,**

First of all, Algeria would like to reiterate once more its strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of its motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed.

Algeria reiterates also its determination to continue its combat against terrorism and violent extremism and to continue to warn against all misconceptions and the tendentious association of terrorism with a religion, a civilization, or a geographical area.

For Algeria, the struggle against violent extremism and terrorism must also include the fight against xenophobia and Islamophobia, that are emerging as the new faces of violent extremism.

**Distinguished delegates,**

Since several years, the UN has intensified its efforts in strengthening collective efforts against terrorism and violent extremism.

Algeria welcomes the adoption, by consensus, of the Resolution of the General Assembly on the fifth review of the 2006 UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, a Strategy that provides an all encompassing approach: from preventing and combating terrorism to addressing the conditions conducive to terrorism; from strengthening the capacity of States and the United Nations to ensuring full respect for human rights.

My delegation would like to underline the importance of consolidating efforts within the Strategy by enhancing cooperation at the bilateral, regional and international levels, strengthening capabilities and exchanging best practices and expertise on combating terrorism

We welcome, in this regard, the reaffirmation through this year's *resolution of Member States' determination to continue to do all they can to resolve conflict, end foreign occupation, confront oppression, eradicate poverty, promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development, global prosperity, good governance, human rights for all and the rule of law, improve intercultural understanding and ensure respect for all religions, religious values, beliefs and cultures.*

We thank the Secretary General for his initiative consisting of the Action Plan to prevent violent extremism.

For its part, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) has proved to be a useful institution which adds value to the UN counter-terrorism efforts and which is steadily becoming one of the key counterterrorism actors.

The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) plays a very important role by ensuring overall coordination and coherence and assisting Member States in terms of technical support, policy making and capacity building.

Algeria expresses its satisfaction with the level of cooperation between UN bodies involved in the counter-terrorism endeavor, including the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED).

**Distinguished delegates,**

Those efforts are still to be completed and strengthened as the devastating phenomenon of terrorism is still growing and expanding its operations thus endangering innocent lives everywhere in the World.

This can be achieved by advancing the work of the General Assembly, through its Sixth Committee towards the finalization of the comprehensive convention to combat international terrorism. In this regard, my delegation stresses the need to agree upon an accurate definition of terrorism, which should be in line with the United Nations Charter and the International Law.

We also support the convening of a high-level Conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a common stand to eradicate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Such a Conference, called for in several General Assembly resolutions, would highly contribute to overcoming the remaining outstanding issues and reaching the required consensus for a comprehensive convention to combat international terrorism.

**Distinguished delegates,**

The increase in incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups aiming to raise funds or gain political concessions, remain a disquieting issue. The Algeria's policy not to pay ransoms or make other substantive concessions to hostage-takers is well known and clear.

In this regard, we welcome the significant progress made towards the prohibition of the payment of ransoms. Those efforts that we have undertaken to the prohibition of ransom payments with our partners have culminated during the Fourth biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by calling all Member States to prevent terrorists from benefiting from ransom payments and political concessions.

**Distinguished delegates,**

Algeria strongly believes that preventing and combating terrorism still require a high level of vigilance, mobilization and multifaceted cooperation at the national, regional and international levels. It is clearly that this battle cannot be limited exclusively to repressive dimension, but need to deploy, upstream and downstream, coherent political strategy.

Algeria has learned a precious lesson from the bitter experience in the fight against violent extremism, terrorism and its roots. My country Algeria has realized significant qualitative steps and made tremendous efforts in preventing violent extremism and curtailing terrorism.

Those steps consolidate the achievements of the historical reconciliation policy submitted by the President of the Republic, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, in the form of the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation adopted through a referendum by an overwhelming majority of the Algerian People.

From our experience we learned that as important as it may be, defeating terrorism solely by security means will always be incomplete for terrorism will always exploit and use the shortcomings existing in every society for the purpose of justifying itself.

Algeria firmly believes that the battle to be waged against this dreadful scourge has to be on a daily basis and in all areas of activity, whether political, institutional, economic, cultural, religious, educational or social. Any hope of success requires the active involvement of all national institutions, all societal stakeholders, and all citizens.

Therefore, the Algerian authorities adopted a strategy designed to shield society as a whole and each citizen from any influence or manipulation by the advocates of violent extremism and terrorism. This strategy is implemented at several levels. It is based on permanently strengthening participatory democracy, the rule of law, and social justice, and on promoting development that offers equal

opportunities for each and every citizen.

All those aspects are addressed and well framed in a comprehensive way in our National Plan for deradicalization and prevention against violent extremism.

**Distinguished delegates,**

Algeria's efforts to combat terrorism and improve regional and international awareness and cooperation in that regard, predate the manifestation of major acts of international terrorism. Algeria has sought from the beginning to strengthen efforts against terrorism at the African level and as a result, many instruments and initiatives have emerged and are playing today a very important role in enhancing the effectiveness of the African efforts in that regard.

In this respect, and through the decision condemning the payment of ransoms to terrorist groups, the appointment of a Special Representative for Counterterrorism Cooperation and also the establishment of a subcommittee on terrorism within the African Union Council for Peace and Security, the African Union is fully committed to the fight against terrorism in all its forms.

In the Sahel region Algeria continues to deploy every effort to enhance full coordination and cooperation. The current context requires both coordination and strengthening the capacities of the countries of the region on the basis of the ownership principle, Algeria has engaged in a concerted approach through many mechanisms of cooperation, such as the Countries of the Field, the working Group on the Sahel co-chaired by Algeria and Canada under the Global Counterterrorism Forum, the Joint Operational General Staff Committee (CEMOC), the Fusion and Liaison Unit (UFL), and many other Forums which remain of a great contribution to facilitate the deepening of security cooperation between the concerned countries, through coordination and strengthening of border control measures, as well as through intelligence sharing.

The important military deployments on Algeria's borders participate in the efforts undertaken by my government to ensure not only our national security but also that of our neighbors.

In the same vein, Algeria continues its contribution to the stabilization and promotion of peace in the Maghreb region, the North of Mali and the Sahel region with the full respect for universal principles of state sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs.

**Distinguished delegates,**

Algeria will remain actively engaged in efforts to counterterrorism and violent extremism at all levels and will contribute constructively to advance the efforts aiming to put an end to terrorism including through the work of the 6<sup>th</sup> Committee.

**I thank you.**