



STATEMENT

by

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**On Behalf of the Caribbean Community
(CARICOM)**

on

**Agenda Item 108: Measures to eliminate international terrorism
in the Sixth Committee (Legal Committee)**

Seventy-first Session of the United Nations General Assembly

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Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the fourteen Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

CARICOM aligns itself with the statements made by the Dominican Republic on behalf of the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

At the outset, I wish to congratulate you on your election to the chairmanship of the Sixth Committee (Legal Committee) and extend best wishes to you and the other distinguished members of the Bureau.

We also wish to reiterate our full support and cooperation as the Sixth Committee deliberates on its agenda items during this 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

CARICOM also welcomes the report of the Secretary General contained in document A/71/182 and its addendum as well as resolution 70/120 on “Measures to eliminate international terrorism”.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism remains one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and the social and economic development of States. It constitutes a flagrant violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the rule of law, and the principles of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

In this regard, CARICOM strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, which cannot be justified under any circumstances and which constitute an unacceptable affront to all humanity. Terrorism has no respect for territorial borders, race, age, gender or social class. No State is immune from this menace. To this end, CARICOM wishes to recall that our region had not been spared and is still awaiting justice for the victims of a terrorist act which occurred almost four (4) decades ago with the hijacking and bombing of an aircraft over the Caribbean Sea.

Mr. Chairman,

We remain deeply concerned over recent acts of terrorism and terrorist related activities, as well as the emergence of radical extremist groups and the upsurge in the number of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) who have pledged allegiance to these groups, whose actions have resulted in widespread fear, havoc and destruction in different regions of the world.

CARICOM notes with concern that many persons traveling to areas of conflict as foreign terrorist fighters are driven by profit incentives and/or radicalization through subversive

materials accessed through printed publications, online resources, electronic media and personal evangelization.

In light of the increasing use of social media to incite terrorist activities and generate funding for such activities, we underline the need to develop technologies to prevent terrorists from intercepting online networks and the need to adopt adequate measures to detect and control illicit behaviour or content on the internet and bring perpetrators to justice. Further, to better address this issue, CARICOM underscores the importance of community outreach programmes to challenge terrorist propaganda through propagating an alternative to extremist messages.

Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM recognises the urgent need for closer collaboration and cooperation toward the reaffirmation of the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, which constitutes a unique global instrument to enhance national, regional and international efforts to counter terrorism. In this regard and pursuant to resolution 70/120, we remain fully committed to the implementation of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, through which Member States have agreed to a common strategic and operational approach to combat terrorism. CARICOM also underlines the need to take practical steps both individually and collectively to combat terrorism. These practical steps should include a wide array of measure ranging from strengthening the capacity of States to counter terrorist threats to better coordinating the UN counter-terrorism activities.

Several CARICOM States have enacted legislation based on international conventions to prevent and counter acts of international terrorism as well as the financing of acts of terrorism or terrorist groups. We have also taken steps to implement relevant Security Council resolutions which address terrorism.

CARICOM also advances that action needs to be taken to prevent the financing of terrorism. As members of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF), an organisation comprising 27 States and territories in the Caribbean Basin, CARICOM States are committed to implementing measures to prevent terrorism, in compliance with the recommendations outlined in the 2012 Financial Action Task Force (FATF) publication on “International Standards on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation”. Pursuant to FATF recommendation six (6), CARICOM remains committed to “implement targeted financial sanctions regimes to comply with United Nations Security Council resolutions relating to the prevention and suppression of terrorism and terrorist financing.

Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM underlines the need to adopt comprehensive legislation to ensure that the perpetrators of these nefarious acts are not allowed to act with impunity and are brought to justice. We view the draft Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism as the appropriate instrument to, among other things, prosecute terrorists and strengthen the

institutional capacity of States, especially small States, in order to effectively combat international terrorism.

In this vein, we, once again, urge all Member States to work together, in the spirit of compromise and for the peace and security of all humanity, to take progressive action on the draft Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism. The time is long overdue. CARICOM, therefore, calls on all States to resolve outstanding political differences, particularly those related to the legal definition of international terrorism and the scope of activities to be included in the Convention, with a view to finally achieving consensus on the draft Comprehensive Convention Against International Terrorism.

To this end and pursuant to resolution 70/120, CARICOM fully supports the decision to establish a working group during this Seventy-first Session of the General Assembly, with a view to finalising the process on the draft comprehensive convention in international terrorism as well as discussions concerning the question of convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations. Although CARICOM does not view the convening of such a conference as a prelude to the finalisation of the text of convention, we believe it would be a useful opportunity for Member States to interact with representatives of the various counter-terrorism committees, as well as other actors on ways of enhancing the implementation of resolutions and treaties concerned with the prevention and suppression of international terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM further underlines that counter-terrorism measures should be in accordance with international law, namely, human rights, international humanitarian law and refugee law.

In closing, CARICOM reiterates its commitment to countering terrorism, including the financing of terrorism, and reaffirms its commitment to continue working in close collaboration with Member States under the ambit of the United Nations to combat the scourge of terrorism.