



GEORGIA

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Statement by Ms. Inga Kanchaveli, Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations

Agenda item 108 "Measures to eliminate international terrorism"

New York, 4 October 2016

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by congratulating you and the other members of the bureau on your assumption of the chairmanship of the Sixth Committee and wish every success in the work ahead.

Georgia aligns itself with the statement made earlier by the EU delegation on today's topic. In Addition I'd like to share with you some information reflecting Georgia's experience, as well as measures undertaken to combat international terrorism.

These days, terrorism has become not just more lethal and more common, but more widespread. Egregious attacks on innocent civilians in different parts of the world make it obvious that terrorism – one of the most pressing challenges for the contemporary world - has become transnational and cross-border in its nature. The death tolls every week or month further testify the violence and brutality incurred by terrorism on humanity. It is our firm belief that addressing the challenge of terrorism requires joint, well coordinated and sustainable approach of international community.

The degree of violence and brutality that ISIL brought to the Middle East is of the greatest concern. It poses real danger not only to regional but international security and stability. Conflicts in Syria and Iraq pumped jihadists to travel in these countries from all over the world. Citizens of Georgia are also targeted for recruitment in interests of terrorist organizations in Syria and Iraq. Georgia fully supports the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL and has already joined three counter-ISIL working groups on counter-financing, counter-messaging and foreign terrorist fighters. We

consider that the work of these groups has a serious potential to further increase coordination and exchange of information among the coalition members.

Mr. Chairman,

As a responsible member of international community, Georgia opposes any form of terrorism. In order to meet international standards and fully implement relevant international instruments, the Government of Georgia has undertaken several legislative as well as practical measures aimed at prevention and suppression of international terrorism. These measures include: signing and ratification of universal, regional and bilateral counter terrorism instruments and their implementation into national policy and legislation; implementation of all relevant UN Security Council resolutions; implementation of recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force on financing terrorism, and etc.

In order to address more comprehensively the requirements of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions related to fight against terrorism, an Interagency Commission on Implementation of the UNSC Resolutions is functioning in Georgia. Relevant agencies of Georgia maintain and regularly update lists of persons suspected of terrorist activities or being in relation with other persons or organizations involved in or suspected to be involved in terrorist activities. The list is regularly updated based on operative information and is shared with relevant state structures.

In addition, certain amendments to the criminal code of Georgia have been implemented in order to increase countries legislative counter terrorism capabilities. These amendments, inter alia, criminalize the whole spectrum of activities related to foreign fighters, in accordance with the UNSC Resolution 2178.

Furthermore, the amendments to the Criminal Code *also* criminalize participation in international terrorism, recruitment for membership in terrorist organizations, travelling with terrorism purposes and facilitation thereby. Bearing in mind growing terrorist propaganda, Georgian Parliament adopted amendments on criminalizing incitement to terrorist acts and glorifying terrorist organizations or terrorist activities thereby.

Mr. Chairman,

It is obvious that in modern technological age, recruitment does not necessitate face-to-face communication anymore. ISIL terrorists are using modern encrypted networks that constitutes huge obstacle for law enforcement agencies in the process of combating terrorism. No single state can have full access to the necessary data. For countering these challenges, Georgia significantly simplified procedures for intelligence sharing and our agencies have longstanding practice of successful international cooperation.

In our opinion, more has to be done to address the root causes conducive to the spread of violent extremism, including elaborating policies aimed at social and economic development, fostering education, fostering youth employment and political engagement - Georgia took steps towards better integration of certain vulnerable local communities into society.

It should be also emphasized that only imprisonment and other punitive measures can't deradicalize violent extremists. On the contrary, criminal prosecution without proper

resocialization strategies can further aggravate radicalization. Therefore, we plan to launch special programs that will be mainly focused on psycho-rehabilitation and deradicalisation of perpetrators during their imprisonment and afterwards.

Finally, let me stress that special attention should be paid to the areas outside effective national and international control. Such areas pose a high risk of being used as safe harbors for terrorist groups.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, I wish to reiterate Georgia's resolve and determination to further engage with our partner countries and international organizations with a common objective of effectively combating terrorism and contributing to the world free from terror.

I thank you for your attention.