

# STATEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

## *Item 108 – Measures to eliminate international terrorism*

Sixth Committee, 71<sup>st</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly

03 October 2016

Thank you, ~~Mr. Chairman~~.

My delegation congratulates you and your Bureau for your important appointment to lead the work of our Committee. We have every confidence in your wisdom and leadership, and you can count on our support.

We align ourselves with the statements of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) delivered by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) delivered by Cambodia.

We also wish to thank the Secretary-General for his report.

Terrorism remains one of the gravest threats to international peace and security. The Philippines joins previous speakers in reaffirming our condemnation and rejection of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever, by whomever, and against whomsoever committed.

Terrorism has claimed thousands of innocent lives, destroyed property and disrupted our economic and social activities and development. We owe it to the families and friends of the victims to bring an end to the violence perpetrated by terrorists and bring those responsible to justice.

We adopted our Global Counterterrorism Strategy and Plan of Action a decade ago. We learned from each one the successes in their national implementation of the Strategy and identified the gaps that need to be filled so that together we can address them. We have also deepened our engagement with the UN, specifically with the UN Center for Counterterrorism (UNCCT) on the "Advance Passenger Information" (API) and/or "Passenger Name Record" (PNR) system. We worked with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on developing and strengthening "National Frameworks for the Protection and Support for Victims of Terrorism Within the Criminal Justice Framework", with the UN Inter-Regional Criminal and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) on "Biological Materials of Concern Write-Shop" consistent with our obligations under the Biological Weapons

Convention, and with the Global Initiative on Combating Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) on our commitment under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Mr Chairman, through international, regional and bilateral cooperation including through the exchange of information and best practices, the Philippines wishes to share what it has accomplished and continues to do in the fight against terrorism.

- On addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, the Philippines has prepared a framework for countering violent extremism through the “whole of nation” approach. This engages non-traditional government agencies, the academe and the private sector as partners in counter-radicalization and/or de-radicalization, by implementing community awareness campaigns and target hardening programs within the framework of the rule of law and human rights.
- We have also harnessed the key role of women and the youth in counterterrorism. Through the Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy, we have organized Muslim leaders and teachers, particularly the women, into a national network and force for moderation, peace, democracy, and development.
- On preventing and combatting terrorism, the Philippines continues its grassroots-based target hardening program to raise the security awareness of local communities, training them in monitoring and preventing terrorist attacks against vital installations and critical infrastructure, economic key points, and places of convergence.
- As the chair of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) last year, the Philippines negotiated the inclusion of initiatives on countering foreign terrorist fighters and violent extremism in the work plan of the APEC Counter-Terrorism Working Group. Countering violent extremism will also be a priority for the Philippines as chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) next year.
- Last November, the Philippines adopted a landmark law, the Strategic Trade Management Act (Republic Act No. 10697), which seeks to uphold national security and support counterterrorism by preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in our country. This

complements our legal regime against terrorism and extremism, showcased by our Human Security Act of 2007 (Republic Act No. 9372), and our Anti-Money Laundering Law (Republic No. 10167) and our Anti-Terrorist Financing Law (Republic Act No. 10168), both of which were adopted in 2012. Our Anti-Money Laundering Council, in cooperation with the UNODC, has been conducting trainings for policymakers, prosecutors, law enforcement and intelligence authorities on countering the financing of terrorism.

- Mr Chairman, on capacity building and strengthening the UN's role, the Chemical-Biological-Radiological-Nuclear (CBRN) Center of Excellence Regional Headquarters was established in Manila in 2014, after diligent preparatory work at the international, regional and national levels. The Anti-Terrorism Council Program Management Center is acting as the Secretariat. In this regard, the Philippines hosted last year an ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Workshop on "Raising Awareness and Promoting ARF Cooperation in CBRN Risk Management", and in that same year finalized the CBRN national action plan. Nineteen CBRN projects have the cooperation of the European Union and UNICRI.

Here at the UN, the Group of Friends of CBRN Risk Mitigation and Security Governance was launched last year by Georgia, Morocco and the Philippines. Just last week, the Group of Friends, together with UNICRI held a side event on *CBRN Risk Mitigation in the context of Combatting Terrorism* to enhance awareness of the current as well as possible future CBRN-related threats, including terrorism. Technological developments, improving global capacity to prevent, detect and respond to CBRN-related threats and strengthening procedures and interoperability of relevant international mechanisms in the context of combatting terrorism were discussed with the participation of States, international organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders.

- After a series of roll-out trainings in key cities across the Philippines, we continue to train law enforcement and security experts in refining our Manual on Collaborative Intelligence, Investigation and Prosecution of Terrorism-Related Cases, and to further develop their capacity in partnership with grassroots-based efforts to detect and prevent insider threats from homegrown violent extremists.

- Finally, on ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law as the fundamental basis in fighting terrorism, the Philippines finalized earlier this year our National Strategy against Terrorism. This is a product of a series of workshops with members of the Anti-Terrorism Council and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process. This strategy is built upon four work streams, namely, Prevent, Protect, Prepare and Respond with the “whole-of-nation” and “rule of law-based” approaches as guiding principles. It also outlines the government’s actions to protect the people from terrorism, and establishes mechanisms and organizational arrangements of agencies that will implement the plan.

Let me conclude by reaffirming that, together with our partners in the international community, we remain undaunted and determined to fight terrorism and secure for all peoples a safe and peaceful world.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.