



3 OCTOBER 2017

UNGA 72 Sixth Committee / Agenda item: 109 - Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism

Statement by Ambassador Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations

Mr Chairman,

On behalf of the delegation of Armenia I congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election and assure you of the full support of Armenia in your important work.

Terrorism continues to pose significant threat to international peace and stability. Horrific terrorist acts have been perpetrated in many parts of the world throughout 2017. We are bound to amplify our collective efforts in pursuit of a common strategy and action. It is a collective responsibility to jointly fight and prevent terrorism in all its manifestations in compliance with international law, including international human-rights law, humanitarian law and the Charter of the United Nations.

Mr Chairman,

Throughout this year there has been further consolidation of the UN system-wide activities to counter terrorism. We welcome the creation of the Office for Counter-Terrorism and the appointment of Under Secretary General Vladimir Voronkov. We are confident that the Office for Counter-Terrorism will further empower the UN in its fight against terrorism, including through strengthening counter terrorism coordination and coherence with the main UN counter-terrorism entities. Sustained and comprehensive engagement of all States, international, regional and sub-regional organizations is as critical as ever to incapacitate and defeat terrorism, including through implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS). The UN Security Council has been continuously making significant contributions to strengthening and guiding our collective efforts towards countering terrorism. The five Resolutions adopted within 2017 are of critical importance in addressing various aspects of international efforts to this end. The most recent of them, namely Resolution 2379 (2017), adopted on 21 September 2017 represents an important step towards securing accountability and justice for the perpetration by ISIL (Da'esh) of acts that may amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

Mr Chairman,

Terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality or civilisation. At the same time, we should acknowledge evidence pointing at extremists and terrorists targeting specific communities based on their religion or ethnicity. The atrocities, perpetrated by ISIL (Da'esh), Al Qaeda and associated groups, individuals, undertakings and entities, particularly against ethnic and religious groups are premeditated and grave identity based crimes of a massive scale. The suffering of Yazidis, Christians and other ethnic and religious minorities and groups must not remain unaddressed.

Mr Chairman,

Despite a great deal of activities in the realm of the fight against terrorism not enough has been achieved to address the conditions, which breed the spread of terrorism, nor in ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law while countering terrorism. We should also recognise the normative and operational challenges to countering terrorism compounded by the actions of terrorists aimed at undermining the very foundations and fabric of societies and national institutions, which they target. We are confident that the UN Secretary General's holistic prevention agenda and the recent creation of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism will considerably strengthen the UN capacities and its impact on preventing violent extremism that leads to terrorism. We also particularly underline the important role of the media, civil and religious society and educational institutions in efforts to enhance dialogue and broaden understanding for promoting tolerance, coexistence and an environment, in which terrorist narratives and incitement of terrorism are firmly and effectively denied.

Mr Chairman,

Armenia is committed to a global fight against terrorism and remains firmly engaged in global and regional activities to this end. Armenia is a State party to 13 UN Conventions related to the fight against terrorism, 4 Council of Europe conventions, the CIS Treaty on Combating Terrorism and the Protocol on Joint Anti-terrorist Actions. Last year the Government of Armenia has adopted the 2016-2018 National Strategy on Combating Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing.

Once again, we reiterate Armenia's full commitment to the international efforts to counter terrorism.

Thank you.