



**THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN  
TO THE UNITED NATION**

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**Statement by Mr. Tofiq F. Musayev  
Member of the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

**at the Sixth Committee of the seventy-second session of the United Nations  
General Assembly under agenda item 109: "Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism"**

*4<sup>th</sup> meeting, 04 October 2017*

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election.

Azerbaijan welcomes the creation of a new Office of Counter-Terrorism headed by Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov, as an important effort towards providing stronger leadership and coherence across the United Nations system and strengthening the delivery to Member States of United Nations capacity-building for counter-terrorism.

Terrorism and violent extremism are a growing threat to international peace and security, to the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and to the political independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and the social and economic development of all Member States.

Azerbaijan strongly condemns terrorism and violent extremism in all their forms and manifestations. All terrorist acts are unjustifiable regardless of their motivation, constitute serious crimes and must be condemned and prosecuted. The instances of shielding and glorification of terrorists may not be tolerated.

The sensitive geographic location of Azerbaijan and armed conflicts in the region and in its immediate neighborhood increase trans-border threats, such as international terrorism and related criminal activities. Since the end of the 1980s, as a method of warfare, terrorist attacks have been repeatedly perpetrated against my country, claiming the lives of thousands of its citizens.

The Government of Azerbaijan has taken comprehensive measures to strengthen its security and defense capabilities, to maintain national border control and management, as well as export control systems. Azerbaijan is a party to all international and regional instruments on combating terrorism and is an active contributor to global counter-terrorism efforts.

We strongly support the international cooperation and enhanced individual and collective counter-terrorism measures, including in particular those aimed at degrading and ultimately defeating terrorist organizations, their affiliates and networks.

While recognizing the significance of addressing all conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, in line with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, it is critical to intensify conflict resolution efforts in various parts of the world.

Indeed, areas of armed conflict, especially territories under foreign military occupation, often create conditions conducive to exploitation by terrorists, separatists and other organized criminal groups and networks.

The accumulation of armaments and munitions in areas beyond the reach of legitimate governments and international control and the risk of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction pose a serious threat to international and regional peace and security.

The strict compliance by all States with their international obligations, including the relevant resolutions adopted by the Security Council, is critical to ensure, *inter alia*, that their respective territories are not used for terrorist, separatist and other related activity, in particular for financing of and providing, directly or indirectly, any other support to such activity under whatever pretext or disguise.

It is important that the new Office of Counter-Terrorism improve visibility, advocacy and resource mobilization to broaden efforts aimed at promoting conflict prevention, building sustainable peace and addressing the root causes that enable terrorist recruitment.

Terrorist acts occurred in the context of armed conflict may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity entailing individual criminal responsibility at the national and international levels. In that regard, international cooperation in criminal matters, with mutual legal assistance as its important component, is the key to combating impunity for acts of terrorism and related criminal activities. Particular attention should be given to addressing legal consequences arising from serious breaches of obligations under peremptory norms of general international law, including the duties of States to cooperate in order to bring to an end such breaches by lawful means.

Azerbaijan reiterates its determination to actively contribute to the process of reaching an agreement on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which would provide a universal definition of the crime of terrorism and complement the existing legal framework of international counter-terrorism instruments.

The required global counter-terrorism policy response is pursued most effectively through the United Nations. I would also like to commend the efforts of regional organizations, including in particular those of which Azerbaijan is a member, such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM, the Cooperation Council of Turkic-speaking States and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia.

Last but not least, the war on terrorism cannot and must not be used to target any religion or culture. That principle must be part and parcel of any counter-terrorism strategy. Among other efforts, support by the United Nations for successful initiatives on intercultural and interreligious dialogue, the culture of peace and multiculturalism is essential for promoting tolerance, building inclusive and resilient societies and overcoming stereotypes and misconceptions.

Thank you.