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STATEMENT

by

**Permanent Mission of the Republic of
Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations, New York**

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

on

**Agenda Item 110: Measures to eliminate international terrorism
in the Sixth Committee (Legal Committee)**

Seventy-second 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 delivered by the representatives El Salvador 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 well deserved election to the chairmanship of the Sixth Committee and extend best wishes to you and the other distinguished members of the Bureau. I wish to assure you of CARICOM's full support and cooperation as you preside over the current session.

CARICOM also expresses its gratitude to the Secretary General for his report contained in document A/72/111 and its addendum.

CARICOM also wishes to commend the Secretary General for his guidance and leadership in the area of combating terrorism. We are therefore particularly pleased with the recent establishment of the UN Office on Counter Terrorism which aims to foster improved leadership and coordination of counter-terrorism activities across the UN system. We also take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Vladimir Ivanovich Voronkov on his appointment as Under Secretary General of the UN Counter Terrorism Office.

Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM reaffirms its strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We echo the words of the UN Secretary General at the opening of the Debate of the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly, that "nothing justifies terrorism, no cause, no grievance".

Terrorism attacks the very principles which lie at the heart of the Charter of the UN. It constitutes a flagrant violation of the rule of law, and the principles of international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and remains one of the most serious threats to international peace and security.

Furthermore, terrorism constitutes an unacceptable affront to all humanity and has no respect for territorial borders, race, age, gender or social class. No State is immune from this menace.

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,

CARICOM once again reiterates its deep concern over 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.

CARICOM notes with concern that many persons traveling to areas of conflict as foreign terrorist fighters are driven by profit incentives and 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.

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 71/151, 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.

Mr. Chairman,

As stated by the Secretary General of CARICOM at the Caricom Counter-Terrorism Strategy Conference held in June 2017, we, as a region cannot afford complacency, as one act of terrorism in one State will resonate and have implications across the Region. At the recently concluded Thirty-eight Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM in July 2017, Heads of State prioritized the development of a CARICOM Counter-Terrorism Strategy which is being finalized for adoption by the Heads of Government.

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 has 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 71/151, CARICOM fully supports the decision to establish a working group during this Seventy-second 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,

While we recognize the importance of combating terrorist activities and taking measures to prevent the financing of terrorism, such measures are not sufficient. We need to do more at the national and multilateral level to address the root causes of terrorism and radicalization, such as marginalization, high unemployment, inequality and other social and political causes. It is impossible to eradicate terrorism if we do not address the root causes which create the breeding ground for terrorism and radicalization.

In closing, CARICOM reiterates that counter-terrorism measures should be in accordance with international law, namely, human rights, international humanitarian law and refugee law. We remain committed to countering terrorism, including the financing of terrorism and will continue to work in collaboration with Member States to rid the world of this menace.