



Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations New York

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STATEMENT BY MS. STEPHANIE GEBREMEDHIN AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE 72nd SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON AGENDA ITEM 109: "MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM"

4 October 2017

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me join others in congratulating you and the other members of the Bureau on your election. We are confident that under your Chairmanship you will lead us toward a successful session of the Sixth Committee. I want to assure you of my delegation's full support in your endeavor.

Let me also congratulate Mr. Vladimir Ivanovich Voronkov, for assuming the leadership of the Office of Counter Terrorism. We hope that the appointment of Mr. Voronkov as Under-Secretary-General of the newly created United Nations Counter-Terrorism Office, could improve the UNCT structure by ensuring greater coordination of counter terrorism related activities across the UN system.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements made by the distinguished Representatives of Algeria and the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the African Group and the Non-Aligned Movement respectively under this agenda item.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to reiterate Eritrea's unequivocal condemnation of violent extremism and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Eritrea believes any action taken in the combat against terrorism must be consistent with international law. In this regard, acts of terrorism should not be associated with any single religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

Mr. Chairman,

Terrorism and violent extremism is a growing threat to peace, security and stability at all levels of society, affecting development and the collective conscience of communities and nations. It is increasingly becoming global in its appeal, complex in its means and more horrendous in its destruction. The crisis in the Red Sea Basin and the potential spread of terrorism and violent extremism to the rest of the region raises serious concern. Eritrea, a diverse nation, while stable, secure and harmonious, is rich in its experience in thwarting radicalization, extremism and terrorism. In this connection, through its modest contribution, Eritrea has committed itself to the global efforts to combat and eliminate terrorism, through its active role at national, regional and international levels.

Mr. Chairman,

The affects and threat of terrorism have been felt by the people and government of Eritrea for decades, for that reason Eritrea continues to enhance its efforts to eliminate terrorism. In 2014 an extensive national counter-terrorism course was conducted by ISS and Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) for more than 30 officers. This type of regional response was created to fight transnational and organized crime and to harmonize their national activities.

Eritrea continues to strengthen its cultural and legal instruments to prevent, suppress and fight all types of extremism and terrorism. The recently published Eritrean penal codes are one of its achievements. Eritrea's Criminal Procedure Code was recently revised to include issues of jurisdiction and extradition, as well as aggravated punishment. Currently, Eritrea is working with the UNODC in which issues of legal framework and other counterterrorism programs are included. A UNODC working group is holding talks with all law enforcement agencies and other government officials through which wide ranging projects are being developed.

Mr. Chairman,

Eritrea firmly believes that member states need to continue to cooperate closely and in a comprehensive manner in order to eliminate international terrorism and achieve sustainable global peace and security. Strengthening the capacity of member states, through the provision of operational and technical advice and support, as well as the delivery of trainings and other forms of capacity building, to

address issues relating to terrorism and implement their obligations under the global and continental regime;

Eritrea supports United Nations efforts to address the danger of terrorism and believes that the balanced implementation of all pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is crucial. It also co-sponsored and welcomes UN Security Council Resolution 2178 (2014) as an effort to strengthen international cooperation to combat all types of extremism and terrorism.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman,

Eritrea with 1,200 kilometers of coastline and more than 350 islands, located in the volatile Horn of Africa and the Red Sea Region, with 50% Christian and 50% Muslim population is a peaceful and harmonious country. Any development or activity concerning the issue of peace and security in the Horn of Africa and Red Sea Region directly affects Eritrea's security and economic development. The Horn is vulnerable as any region could be to the threat of terrorist infiltration, therefore the need for strengthening cooperation and enhancing the capabilities of States and relevant regional and international organizations to combat terrorism cannot be overemphasized. It is also imperative to get rid of unjustified restrictions imposed on some States that could undermine their capabilities to fight the scourge.

Finally, Eritrea believes that the root causes of terrorism and radicalization such as poverty, social marginalization, lack of access to resources and sense of injustice, must be addressed. We must promote sustainable and inclusive development.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman