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STATEMENT

BY

THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

OF THE

72ND SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

UNDER AGENDA ITEM 109

"MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM"

NEW YORK

TUESDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2017

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to congratulate you on your assumption of the chairmanship of this noble committee and to thank you for the way and manner in which you are steering the meeting. Let me also assure you of my delegation's unreserved support throughout this session.

To discuss collectively ways and means of tackling terrorism and violent extremism, kindly permit my delegation to associate itself with the statement delivered by Algeria on behalf of the African Group and the statement delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the non-aligned movement (NAM).

The inherent freedom of movement and peace we enjoy as humans are being seriously undermined by terrorism. This committee would recall the recent tragedies of recurrent terrorist acts around the world. International Terrorism is without a doubt the most complex and challenging security issue of the human family today. Its lack of boundary leaves no country immune. It is therefore not an exaggeration to say that our world is in grave danger and that our very human existence is under serious threat.

We consider the call for collective action against terrorism as urgent because this evil knows no boundaries. Terrorism has no regard for race, religion or creed. It has no sympathy for the innocent or the weak. Terrorism does not even respect any religion or sacred places of worship. These merchants of evil have assassinated the innocent and the adherents' of all religions. They have desecrated Mosques, Churches, and Synagogues and have vandalized cemeteries. Indeed, these are groups of evil people who have no respect for the sanctity of life.

Mr. Chairman

The Republic of The Gambia is at the forefront of the fight against terrorism and all its forms and manifestations. Committed to these endeavors, the Republic of The Gambia has ratified all international treaties against terrorism and terrorist acts.

In advancing our efforts and commitments towards preventing terrorism, the Republic of The Gambia has enacted amongst other legislations, the anti-money laundering Act and human trafficking in persons Act to comprehensively deal with all forms of terrorism and terrorist activities.

The Republic of The Gambia is willing to share intelligence with the international community on terrorism and related activities and wishes to encourage all member states to do the same. We commend the efforts of the United Nations and its subsidiaries including the Sixth Committee for its numerous resolutions condemning terrorist activities.

If terrorism is allowed to hold us back in our efforts to lead a sustainable life, the attainment of our theme **'Focusing on people: striving for peace and the decent life for all as a sustainable planet'** for the 72nd session of the General Assembly will remain an unfulfilled goal. It is clear that if terrorism is allowed to continue and spread, it has the potential to cause havoc on our economies and destroy our way of life, regardless of race and religious affiliation.

We, therefore, call on member states of the United Nations to reject Islamophobia, for Islam or Muslims are not at war with the world and the world must not be at war with Islam or Muslims. We therefore call on the leaders of all faiths and political persuasions to add their voices to denounce the actions of uninformed individuals with appalling narratives that are repeatedly claiming that there is a connection between terrorism and Islam. We strongly urge member states to focus time and energy on building bridges and ways to end terrorism in all its forms and manifestation.

I thank you.