



GEORGIA

72nd Session of the General Assembly, Sixth Committee

**Statement by Mr. Giorgi Mikeladze, Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of Georgia
to the United Nations**

Agenda item 109 "Measures to eliminate international terrorism"

New York, October 3, 2017

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by congratulating you and other members of the bureau on the election. As we look forward to your able leadership, allow me to assure you of the full support from Georgian delegation in all your important endeavors.

Georgia aligns itself with the statement made by the EU delegation and I'd like to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

It has been a decade since the UN General Assembly adopted the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy to fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. A decade later, all 4 pillars of the strategy are equally relevant and vital today. In spite of the continuous efforts of international community to prevent terrorism and bring the perpetrators to justice, modern day terrorism appears to be more challenging and pervasive than ever.

Advancements of the world in globalization of commerce, freedom of travel and information transfer technologies, unfortunately opened the new vistas of opportunities for terrorists.

It is important to condemn any form of direct or indirect support of terrorism by any state or non-state actors. In this regards, Georgia wishes to encourage states to join all UN anti-terrorism conventions and relevant international instruments.

Today, when the Islamic State has been experiencing significant losses of territories both in Iraq and Syria, there is an increasing threat that ISIL will shift combat strategy and direct its main resources towards the other countries.

To counter these threats we need to join robust efforts, by introducing measures that are both effective and in full compliance with International Human Rights, Humanitarian and Refugee Law principles. We join others in belief that the stronger support of rule of law is a fundamental component of the fight against the terrorism.

Addressing this challenge, strengthening of international cooperation as well as intensive and timely sharing of information is of a paramount importance.

Mr. Chairman,

In Georgia, significant attention is given to the prevention of radicalization. The Government is applying considerable efforts towards reintegration of local vulnerable communities into the society, as a part of prevention and combat policy.

Notably, **no** travels of Georgian citizens towards Middle East to join ISIS as well as the so called Foreign Terrorist Fighters from the Middle East to Georgia, have been detected recently.

Georgia spares no efforts to prevent and combat terrorism as well as to render assistance to those in need. In December 2016, Georgia voluntarily allocated financial support for OCHA's (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) humanitarian activities in Syria aimed at improving the humanitarian and human rights situation on the ground. In addition, Georgia, like many others, has accepted hundreds of asylum seekers from Syria and Iraq, who have been fleeing from violence and brutality of ISIS.

Against this background, we deem ensuring of accountability for these heinous crimes to be critically important. Georgia has co-sponsored the UNGA Resolution 71/248 aimed at establishment of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to assist in the investigation and prosecution of persons responsible for the most serious crimes under international law committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011. In this respect, Georgia contributed financially to support the establishment of the Mechanism in February 2017.

We underscore that capacity-building in all states as well as coordinated international approach are vital elements of the global counter-terrorism effort. Therefore, we encourage all member states to intensify their contributions to the United Nations counter-terrorism cooperation and technical assistance projects.

In conclusion, allow me to reiterate my strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes.

I, thank you!