

Statement by  
H.E. Mr. Abbas Bagherpour Ardekani  
Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
Before  
The Sixth Committee of the  
72<sup>st</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly  
On:  
**"Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism"**  
(Agenda Item 108)  
New York, 3 October 2017

*In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful*

**Mr. Chairman,**

At the outset, I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating you and the members of the bureau on your deserving elections. Our felicitation also goes to Mr. Voronkov for assuming the leadership of the newly established Office of Counter-Terrorism. We do hope that the UNCT architecture will improve in a way that not only ensures enhanced coordination of counter terrorism related activities across the UN system, but also promotes the UN capacity for better addressing the root causes of terrorism and extremism.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Much is being expressed about the formidable challenges presented to the global community by terrorism and extremism, and on the approaches to combat and contain these enemies of humanity. The daily terrorist attacks being committed everywhere and by everyone show that these heinous nightmares are neither confined to any part of the world, nor can they be combated by selective blocks and only through military hardware.

After a decade-and-a-half of wholesale failure in combating post-9/11 terrorism, ugly realities on the ground push us to look at these challenges with open eyes—without illusions or indeed self-delusion. In fact, myopic views of a complex situation, let alone the pursuit of shortsighted self-serving policies, are bound to fail. Besides, applying double-standards in the area of international counter-terrorism cooperation and one-sided interpretation of

“terrorism” provide a safe haven for terrorist groups and their affiliates to freely grow, recruit and perpetrate unspeakable atrocities.

Another longstanding issue to examine is the endemic and age-old problem of foreign invasion and occupation, and what it has brought in its wake. The seventy-year state of occupation of Palestine is the most pressing. This has been further compounded by the systematic political and military interventions in order to preserve, perpetuate, and create their desired regional configuration.

Indeed, misperceptions and erroneous assumptions may temporarily defuse domestic anxieties. They do not, however, help in the actual resolution of global crises. Such reprehensible approaches could only undermine international trust and cooperation in countering terrorism. We need to break the habit of always throwing the ball into another side’s court.

**Mr. Chairman,**

It should have become all too clear by now that a successful and effective fight against the two cancerous phenomena of terrorism and extremism calls for a comprehensive approach and a multi-pronged strategy which depends, first and foremost, on a sober understanding and recognition of their enabling social, cultural, economic and global conditions. In fact, what we are faced with is a socio-cultural problem, caused by a deeply-felt state of deprivation, alienation, and marginalization in an affluent and developed environment.

Containing – and the ultimate physical elimination – of extremist terrorist organizations on the ground is certainly required, but only as a necessary first step and only as a component of a much larger effort. Problems of a global nature with deep-seated roots call for the requisite proper understanding and genuine global cooperation in confronting them. Terrorism and extremism, as a multidimensional phenomenon, can only be defeated if a comprehensive plan is devised and implemented by various relevant stakeholders in a coordinated and coherent manner. The United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy provides such a common platform for cooperation and we support its implementation, in an integrated and balanced way.

States should also adopt a comprehensive approach and increase efforts to crack down on the recruitment and movement of terrorists, cut off their financing channels and curb their abuse of social media.

By the same token, more attention should be given to the propagation of hostility among different religions and denominations by spreading the Takfiri ideology as the most underlying driver for terrorism. This ideology has nothing to do with the genuine and original message of Islam. In this line, we attach great importance to the capacity of religious actors including

clerics and scholars in promotion of mutual understanding and harmonious coexistence among diverse denominations and social groups by denouncing narratives and ideologies that engender hatred and intolerance.

**Mr. Chairman,**

On 7 June 2017 the cowardly terrorists affiliated with ISIS carried out twin terrorist attacks in Tehran. Although the attackers were immediately fought off by the security forces, several innocent citizens including women were killed and dozens were injured. Such blind attacks not only left untouched the unreserved will of the Islamic Republic of Iran to fight vigorously all manifestations of terrorism, it further rendered our nation more resolute and caused the Iranian government to add momentum to its contribution to the fight against terrorism.

As regards to the latest national efforts and in line with its commitments to fight terrorism and to enhance its legislative counter-terrorism capabilities, the Islamic Republic of Iran has, in parallel with its anti-terrorism regional cooperation, concluded several bilateral security cooperation agreements. Furthermore, and following the adoption of Countering Financing of Terrorism Act in 2016 and based on the new legislation, there are now a number of enforced directives and circulars to ensure the comprehensive implementation of the Act. They include among others Cash Couriers and Wire Transfers that are effective in preventing possible terrorist financing. The executive branch of the government has also started the formal process for Iran's accession to the 99 International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Let me conclude, Mr. President, by reiterating that the Islamic Republic of Iran remains committed to the implementation of the General Assembly's Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We stand ready to help Mr. Voronkov and his team in discharging their important functions in this regard and in pursuing the goal of ridding the world of terrorism.

I thank you, Mr. President.