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MALDIVES

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Sixth Committee

Agenda Item 109: Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism

**Statement by His Excellency, Dr. Ali Naseer Mohamed,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Maldives to
the United Nations
3 October 2017**

Thank you [Madam / Mr] Chair,

My Delegation wishes to extend to you and the Members of the Bureau, our warmest congratulations on your election. I assure you that you will have my Delegation's full support and confidence as you steer this Committee. We also express our appreciation and gratitude to the outgoing Chair and the Bureau. Let me also thank the Secretary-General for the Report submitted under this agenda item and we commend on the efforts and measures put in place by various countries in our common fights against terrorism.

[Madam / Mr] Chair,

Terrorism, all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever it is committed, is a global menace that has to be eliminated. And that can be done only through global partnerships, that are built on mutual trust, for the mutual benefit. The acts of terrorism we are witnessing today should have no place in the



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civilized world; from the most recent terrorist bombing in a crowded London subway station, to the terrifying attacks in Burkina Faso and coordinated attacks that took lives of the UN peacekeeping soldiers in Mali. I take this opportunity to send our heartfelt thoughts and prayers to the victims and their families.

My Government strongly condemns all acts, methods, and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever it is committed. The Maldives, in particular, condemns all acts of terrorism, committed in the name of Islam. Terrorism has no place in Islam, and no terrorist activity can be attributed to the great religion of Islam. The Maldives stands ready, along with our regional and international partners, to work on a unified platform to contain, control, and defeat terrorism.

Efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism begin with, and must be guided by, a clear and resolute policy. In the Maldives, President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom formulated a comprehensive national policy against terrorism and violent extremism in 2016, which was adopted by the Parliament. The Maldives enacted the Anti-Terrorism Act in 2015, which enables law enforcement agencies and the prosecuting authorities to specifically address foreign terrorist fighters and those providing financial or material support to terrorist or violent extremist organisations. The Maldives has also enacted Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Act in 2015, which gives expanded authority to the investigative agencies to monitor suspicious activities and pursue those suspect of providing financial support to terrorism.



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In 2016, the Government of Maldives established the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) to provide a common platform to facilitate information and intelligence sharing, and synchronizes the inter-agency activities in our efforts against terrorism and violent extremism. Through the NCTC we have also conducted the baseline study of violent extremism and terrorism, as well as a study on the contributing factors to radicalisation in the Maldives.

My Government is convinced that in the Maldives, the most feasible strategy to prevent and counter violent extremism is through community-based programmes. The NCTC, in collaboration with inter-agency partners and community stakeholders, are undertaking programmes to enable the community to resist radicalising ideologies, and to empower communities, especially the women and youth leaders. Youth are the most vulnerable group to radicalization, but they are also our best hope for positive change in our societies. We need to identify positive messages and campaigns, empower our youth to be engaged in these, and galvanize their energy and potential to create the future and the society we all envision, but more importantly, which they will inherit.

The Maldives has also expanded its international collaboration, intelligence and information sharing and cooperation with international partners. In October 2016, the Maldives hosted an international seminar focused on counter terrorism and violent extremism to establish an international network to facilitate further collaboration. The Maldives is also working closely with the



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Terrorism Prevention Branch of the UNODC, as well as UN CTED on capacity building programmes.

The Maldives, in partnership with the Government of Saudi Arabia, hosted a high-level Side Event last month here at the UN, in which a number of countries held an extremely useful interactive dialogue on various strategies and lessons learnt in countering terrorism and violent extremism.

[Madam / Mr] Chair,

My Government believes that our counter-terrorism efforts need to be part of a global, comprehensive approach. In this regard, the Maldives commends the efforts of the Secretary General in establishing the new Office of Counter-Terrorism and the plan of action in preventing violent extremism. It is important that the new Office forge a strong partnership with member States and implement the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy in a balanced manner. Similarly, we would like to congratulate the Under Secretary General, Mr. Voronkov on his assumption to the United Nations Counter Terrorism Office. We are confident that Mr. Voronkov will provide strategic leadership to the United Nations counter terrorism efforts and we stand ready to assist.

[Madam / Mr] Chair



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Terrorism seeks to undermine the most fundamental and deeply cherished values of freedom, inclusivity, tolerance and respect. We cannot and must not let those who peddle in fear and hate define us, our societies and our futures. We must unite against this common menace and unite together. It is time we strive harder to overcome our differences and combat the driving factors of terrorism.

Thank you
