



**REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS
DRAFT STATEMENT
6TH COMMITTEE – TERRORISM
October 2017**

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, let me congratulate you on your election as Chairperson of the Sixth Committee and for having competently set the tone for fruitful deliberations of the work of the committee.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by Algeria on behalf of the African Group and by Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). The Government of Mauritius strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Today, terrorism exists irrespective of borders and undermines the sovereignty of States in a way we have never seen before. Indeed, global terrorism has emerged as one of the most pressing security challenges around the world.

In this current era, Mr. Chair, it is more important than ever that States and international organisations fully cooperate in the fight against terrorism, in accordance with our obligations under international law. Cooperation should be intensified in exchanging timely and accurate information concerning the prevention and combatting of terrorism. Moreover, there is an urgent need to strengthen coordination among States in combatting terrorism.

This is why my delegation wishes to congratulate the UN Secretary-General for establishing the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism through the adoption of General Assembly resolution 71/291 on 15 June 2017. This has been the very first major institutional reform undertaken by the Secretary-General. The new Office will no doubt help *inter alia*, to provide leadership, coordination and coherence, to strengthen the UN counter-terrorism capacity-building assistance to Member States, and to improve the visibility, advocacy and resource mobilization for UN counter-terrorism efforts.

Mr. Chair,

Last year in Mauritius, substantive legislative amendments were brought to the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PoTA) of 2002 in order to provide, *inter alia*, for the reinforcement of the legal framework against terrorism. In line with our Government Programme 2015-2019, the Counter Terrorism Unit now has the appropriate legal status which enables it to discharge its functions in a more effective and efficient manner, thanks to these amendments to PoTA. The amendments also cater for issues such as terrorist training – whether inland or overseas - , recruitment by terrorist groups,

terrorist hoaxes, control orders and special power of enquiries, as well as the use of technologies for surveillance and intelligence gathering.

Mr. Chair,

In line with the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the Government of Mauritius is constantly enhancing its National Counter-Terrorism Strategy with particular emphasis on Community bonding, Law Enforcement & Intelligence gathering and Response and Recovery. Intercultural dialogue in our multiethnic and multi-religious society is a constant and inherent process. This togetherness helps in breaking barriers and in promoting a culture of peace, justice, human development, tolerance, and respect for different religions and cultures that are essential elements when tackling the root causes of terrorism, radicalization and violent extremism, which very often derive from situations of extreme poverty, inequality, marginalization, and discrimination.

Mr. Chair,

Mauritius is party to several international treaties that contain the obligation to apprehend, prosecute or extradite perpetrators of terrorist acts. We would also wish to underline that our Constitution guarantees and safeguards the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual, including the protection of freedom of conscience.

While each of our countries is reinforcing its own internal efforts to combat terrorism, we must all understand that unless we look at the fundamental causes of extreme radicalism and fundamentalism we will continue to remain vulnerable to this scourge. We therefore appeal for renewed cooperation at international level to address this matter in a holistic and integrated manner.

I thank you for your kind attention, Mr. Chair.