

Statement by Saudi Arabia on behalf of the OIC Group
Before the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly
On item 107 "Measures to eliminate international terrorism"
New York, 3 October 2017

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the OIC Group on the agenda item "Measures to eliminate international terrorism". At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Sixth Committee. Congratulations also go to other members of the Bureau on their election, and I would like to assure you the OIC Group's full support throughout the work of the Committee.

I would also like to congratulate HE Vladimir Voronkov on his appointment as USG and head of the office of counter terrorism. The OIC welcomes the establishment of the office as we feel this will elevate the work of the UN in combatting terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

The OIC Group reaffirms that terrorism constitutes a **flagrant violation of international law**, including international humanitarian law and human rights law. Terrorism also **contradicts the practices of Islam** and its principles.

The Group reaffirms that terrorism **should not be associated with any religion**, race, faith, theology, values, culture, society or group. In this context, and while the group of OIC takes note of recent statements of Presidents and world leaders who dissociated Islam from terrorist organizations, we strongly condemn any attempt to link Islam with terrorism to achieve interests, such attempts play in the hands of terrorists and constitute any advocacy of religious hatred, discrimination and hostility against Muslims.

Accordingly, we reiterate the importance of **promoting dialogue**, understanding and cooperation among religions, cultures and civilizations for peace and harmony in the world and welcome in this regard all international and regional initiatives and efforts.

Mr. Chairman,

The OIC Group also reaffirms its commitment to **strengthen international cooperation** in the fight against terrorism. The group believes that it is essential to follow a **comprehensive approach in combating terrorism**. This should be done by addressing the root causes of terrorism, including the unlawful use of force, aggression, foreign occupation, festering international disputes, and political marginalization and alienation. Moreover, it is necessary to combat all terrorist groups and organizations wherever they exist without any distinction.

Furthermore, the Group believes that it is essential that Member States should enhance their cooperation and coordination with the aim of **prosecuting** the perpetrators of the terrorist acts, preventing providing any **finance, safe havens, assistance or weapons** to terrorist groups and organizations. It is also imperative to enhance the cooperation and coordination to **refute the narratives** and ideologies of the terrorist groups and organization.

Once again, the Group reiterates the need to make a distinction between terrorism and the exercise of **legitimate right of peoples to resist foreign occupation** and would like to stress that this distinction is duly observed in International Law, International Humanitarian Law, Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, and the General Assembly resolution 46/51 which also endorses this position.

The OIC reaffirms that **the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy** (GA resolution 60/288) constitutes an ongoing effort and is a living document, which should be up-dated and re-examined regularly. The Group also reaffirms that the Counter-Terrorism Strategy should be implemented in a balanced manner in all its aspects. The Group urges Member States to cooperate for banning the payment of ransoms claimed by terrorist Groups. We stress on the importance of enhancing capacity-building of Member States to assist them in the implementation of various obligations of UN resolutions, through increasing the resources for UN entities and departments entrusted with this task, as well as enhancing bilateral technical assistance and transfer of technology.

Mr. Chairman,

The General Assembly remains seized of the pending issue of **the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT)**. The OIC Group reaffirms its commitment to the process of negotiations and underscores the

need for progress in this process. We reiterate our previous proposal on the scope of the draft Convention. We reaffirm our determination to make every effort to reach a **consensus** agreement on the draft convention, by resolving the outstanding issues including those related to the legal definition of terrorism, particularly on the distinction between terrorism and the struggle for the rights of self-determination by people under foreign occupation, and colonial or alien domination, as well as on the scope of the acts covered by the draft Convention.

The OIC Group reiterates the call to hold a **high-level conference** under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and to conclude an agreed definition of terrorism.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.
