

**Statement by Mr. Majed Bamya, First Counsellor, Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the UN, before the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly in its 72nd session, on “Measures to eliminate international terrorism” (Agenda item 108), 4 October 2017**

Thank you Mr. President,

We congratulate you for your election to Chair our work and extend our congratulations to the other members of the bureau and express our hope for a constructive and successful session that contributes to advancing the rule of law and addressing the many challenges being faced by the international community at this critical time.

The State of Palestine aligns itself with the Statements of the Non-Aligned movement and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

The State of Palestine values the sincere engagement of the Secretary General for a successful review of the UN counter terrorism architecture and welcomes the establishment of the Office for counter terrorism and warmly congratulates Mr. Vladimir Ivanovich Voronkov on his appointment as head of this Office

We reiterates our willingness to work actively with other delegations to continuously refine the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy as well as to achieve consensus regarding the draft comprehensive Convention on international terrorism.

Mr President

A global threat requires a global response, and while national initiatives are important, only international cooperation based on unshakeable values and beliefs can help properly confront the terrorist threat. Therefore any national action that contravenes these values, or divides those whose unity is indispensable to defeat terrorism only weakens national and international responses. Divisive and racist rhetoric, contempt for international law, disregard for the need for prevention, refusal to address root causes of terrorism and providing pretexts that can be used for recruitment purposes are all recipes for failure.

Humanity should be united in refusing to play along the dividing lines drawn by terrorists, as well as in rejecting their self-proclaimed titles. Vanquishing terrorism entails never associating terrorism with a religion even when, and especially when, the terrorists distort this religion to advance their nihilist ideas and their hatred. It is important to constantly reaffirm that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group and constitutes a threat to all humanity. Vanquishing terrorism necessitates upholding international law. Vanquishing terrorism requires rejecting all attempts to misuse the legitimate fight against terrorism to advance illegitimate goals or justify injustice.

On this eleventh anniversary of the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the threat posed by terrorism has further spread globally

affecting millions of innocent civilians, causing instability in numerous countries, and highlighting the need for a comprehensive and balanced implementation of the strategy across all four of its pillars.

The State of Palestine condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and terrorist acts wherever, by whomever and against whomsoever committed, including those in which States are directly or indirectly involved. While action to prevent and combat terrorism is necessary, such action must be in full compliance with international law, including the Charter, international human rights, refugee law and international humanitarian law.

Member States have repeatedly affirmed their determination to continue to do all they can to resolve conflict, end foreign occupation, confront oppression, eradicate poverty, promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development, global prosperity, good governance, human rights for all and rule of law, improve intercultural understanding and ensure respect for all religions, religious values, beliefs or cultures, fully aware that such endeavors will tremendously contribute to the fight against terrorism and the achievement of international peace and security. We have a duty to live up to this pledge.

Mr President,

We believe that the need to fight terrorism is a matter of international consensus and should remain as such, as confirmed by the consensual adoption of the fifth review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and should therefore not be undermined by attempts to exploit the legitimate fight against terrorism to suppress the right to self-determination of peoples, notably those under colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation.

We express our solidarity with all victims of terrorism and their families wherever they are. We have a shared and collective duty to promote a culture of peace, tolerance and intercultural and interreligious dialogue. Respect for human dignity, pluralism and diversity can help shield our communities from the threat of terrorism while discrimination, segregation, xenophobia will only foster the hatred conducive to extremism and even terrorism. Our destinies were never this intertwined and we must work together to achieve freedom and dignity for all, development and prosperity.

Thank you.