



**THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN  
TO THE UNITED NATION**

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**Statement by Mr. Tofiq F. Musayev  
Member of the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

**at the Sixth Committee of the seventy-third session of the United Nations General Assembly  
under agenda item 111: "Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism"**

*04 October 2018*

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election.

Terrorism and related criminal activities continue to represent a serious threat to international peace and security, to the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and to the political independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and the social and economic development of all Member States. These activities are unjustifiable regardless of their motivation, constitute serious crimes and must be condemned and prosecuted. The instances of shielding and glorification of terrorists may not be tolerated.

The sensitive geographic location of Azerbaijan and unresolved armed conflicts in the region increase trans-border threats, such as international terrorism and related criminal activities. Since the end of the 1980s, as a mean of realizing groundless and unlawful territorial claims and a method of warfare, terrorist attacks have been repeatedly perpetrated against my country, claiming the lives of thousands of its citizens.

While recognizing the significance of addressing all conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, in line with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, it is critical to intensify conflict resolution efforts in various parts of the world.

Indeed, areas of armed conflict, especially territories under foreign military occupation, often create conditions conducive to exploitation by terrorists, separatists and other organized criminal groups and networks.

The strict compliance by all States with their international obligations, including the relevant resolutions adopted by the Security Council, is critical to ensure, *inter alia*, that their respective territories are not used for terrorist, separatist and other related activities, in particular for financing of and providing, directly or indirectly, any support to such activities under whatever pretext or disguise.

Terrorist acts occurred in the context of armed conflict may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity entailing individual criminal responsibility. In this connection, international cooperation in criminal matters, with mutual legal assistance as its important component, is the key to combating impunity for acts of terrorism and related criminal offences.

We strongly support the international cooperation and enhanced individual and collective counter-terrorism measures, including in particular those aimed at degrading and ultimately defeating terrorist organizations, their affiliates and networks.

Azerbaijan reiterates its determination to actively contribute to the process of reaching an agreement on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, which would complement the existing legal framework of international counter-terrorism instruments.

Counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism are among the highest priorities of the United Nations. Earlier this year, the General Assembly reviewed the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and unanimously adopted a resolution, which sets a clear direction for the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations and Member States over the following two years.

We appreciate the work of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and welcome the first High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States convened by the Secretary-General at the end of June 2018.

I would also like to commend Kazakhstan's initiative to develop the Code of Conduct towards Achievement a World Free of Terrorism, which has been signed during the high-level event on 28 September 2018 by a large number of States, including Azerbaijan. We consider this timely initiative as an important contribution to global counter-terrorism efforts.

Last but not least, the war on terrorism cannot and must not be used to target any religion or culture. Among other efforts, support by the United Nations for successful initiatives on intercultural and interreligious dialogue, the culture of peace and multiculturalism is essential for promoting tolerance, building inclusive and resilient societies and overcoming stereotypes and misconceptions.

Thank you.