



Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations New York

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STATEMENT BY MS. STEPHANIE GEBREMEDHIN AT THE SIXTH
COMMITTEE OF THE 73rd SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY ON AGENDA ITEM 1121: "MEASURES TO ELIMINATE
INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM"

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Mr. Chair,

At the outset, let me join others in congratulating you and the other members of the Bureau on your election. We are confident that under your Chairmanship you will lead us toward a successful session of the Sixth Committee. I want to assure you of my delegation's full support in your endeavor. Allow me to also, commend the leadership and efforts made in the year since the creation of the Office of Counter Terrorism.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements made by the distinguished Representatives of The Gambia and the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the African Group and the Non-Aligned Movement respectively under this agenda item.

Mr. Chair,

I would like to reiterate Eritrea's unequivocal condemnation of violent extremism and terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Reaffirming that terrorism poses a threat to international peace and security and that countering this threat requires collective efforts at national, regional and international levels on the basis of respect for international law and the Charter of the United Nations. In this context, it is however important not to associate acts of terrorism to any single religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

Mr. Chair,

Terrorism is a multifaceted threat, it is a growing threat to peace, security and stability at all levels of society, affecting development and the collective conscience of communities and nations. The crisis in the Red Sea Basin and the potential spread of terrorism and violent extremism to the rest of the region raises serious concern. Eritrea, a diverse nation, while stable, secure and harmonious, is rich in its experience in thwarting radicalization, extremism and terrorism. As every nation has a role to play, Member States have the primary responsibility in countering terrorist acts and violent extremism conducive to terrorism. In this connection, through its modest contribution, Eritrea has committed itself to the global efforts to combat and eliminate terrorism, through its active role at national, regional and international levels.

Currently, Eritrea is developing overarching projects with UNODC to build the human, infrastructural, technical and technological capacities of the Eritrean law enforcement agencies. These projects are based on national ownership and aligned with the SDGs, AU Agenda 2063, and UNODC Regional Program for Eastern Africa (2016-2021) “Promoting the Rule of Law and Human Security in Eastern Africa”.

Mr. Chair,

A key component to combating terrorism and violent extremism is the maintenance of international peace and security, and more specifically regional peace and security. On 9 July 2018 Eritrea and Ethiopia signed a “Joint Declaration of Friendship” ending 20 years of hostilities. The recent renewal of peace and cooperation in the Horn of Africa is a historic achievement and is paving the way for peace, stability, and economic development among all countries of the region. Moreover, the peace accord signed between Eritrea and Ethiopia in Jeddah reaffirmed the commitment of the two countries to combat terrorism as well as trafficking in people, arms and drugs in accordance with international covenants and conventions. Furthermore, it encourages cooperation on counterterrorism efforts between countries of the region. Such cooperation could further benefit regional stability to improve international cooperation, information sharing, exchange of best practices, and to build new partnerships that can find practical solutions.

Mr. Chair,

Eritrea supports United Nations efforts to address the danger of terrorism and believes that the balanced implementation of all pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is central. In this connection, Eritrea signed the Code of Conduct Towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism, initiated by Kazakhstan. It also co-sponsored and welcomes UN Security Council Resolution 2396 (2017) on returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters.

In conclusion, Mr. Chair,

Any development or activity concerning the issue of peace and security in the Horn of Africa and Red Sea Region directly affects Eritrea's security and economic development. The Horn is vulnerable as any region could be to the threat of terrorist infiltration, therefore the need for strengthening cooperation and enhancing the capabilities of States and relevant regional and international organizations to combat terrorism cannot be overemphasized. It is also imperative for the removal of unjustified restrictions imposed on some States that could undermine their capabilities to fight the scourge.

Finally, we must complement our counterterrorism efforts in the security realm with concerted efforts to identify and address the root causes. Factors such as prolonged unresolved conflicts, poverty, lack of opportunities and socioeconomic marginalization can all play a part in transforming ideas and grievances into acts of terrorism, while understanding the root causes of terrorism can lead to policies for prevention.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman