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STATEMENT

BY

Mr. Ephrem Bozuayhue Hidug

Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
to the Sixth Committee

On

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

4 October 2018

New York

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election to steer the work of the committee. My delegation assures you and members of the Bureau; its full cooperation and support.

We also express our appreciation to the Secretary General for his report on Measures to eliminate international terrorism as contained in document A/73/125.

Ethiopia aligns itself with the statements delivered by the Gambia on behalf of the African Group and the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of NAM.

Mr. Chairperson,

Terrorism continues to pose a greater challenge to the peace and security of the international order, and no one can claim to be immune from such threats. As such, our effort to fight the threat of terrorism requires a globally coordinated response. Here, the need for enhanced cooperation among regional and international organizations cannot be overemphasized. Terrorism is also a complex and ever-changing phenomenon in terms of its motivation, financing and support mechanisms, methods of attack and choice of targets. This changing nature of terrorism demands frequent revision of national and international strategies and instruments.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in this regard, provides a global framework for enhancing national, regional and international efforts to counter terrorism. While the primary responsibility of implementing the Strategy rests with each member state, international, regional and sub-regional mechanisms should continue to play a key role in promoting counter-terrorism cooperation. It is worth mentioning here the very important role that the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism plays in enhancing greater coherence and synergy among UN entities working on counterterrorism and its crucial role in implementing the Global Strategy.

The Security Council Counter-terrorism architecture, which includes the CTC and CTED, is another important global framework to combat terrorism and violent extremism. The CTC and CTED have greatly contributed in enhancing the capacity of Member States to prevent terrorist activities. CTED made a comprehensive visit to Ethiopia on behalf of the CTC from 5 to 9 June 2017 to take stock of the status of the implementation of UN-counter-terrorism instruments in Ethiopia. The report of this visit has well progressed and will be considered by the CTC anytime soon. As a non-permanent member of the Security Council, Ethiopia actively participates in the work of the CTC and closely works with CTED and other UN entities on counter-terrorism issues.

Despite the significant progress made in these and other international frameworks, however, the international cooperation to address the threat of terrorism remains yet to be fully effective and terrorists continue to pose serious threat to international peace and security.

Mr. Chairperson,

We are also of the view that the fight against terrorism must primarily be focused on its root causes. In this regard, the joint response of the international community has to be long-term and multi-pronged, addressing various conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, including dialogue, understanding, countering the appeal of terrorism. A particular attention needs to be devoted in dissuading those elements in the society who are bent on fomenting hatred or harbor hostilities from exploiting the disadvantaged segments of the population to incite violence and carry out acts of terrorism.

Instead, in this regard, what need to be done is to work hard, as international community, towards the promotion of mutual tolerance, co-existence and respect each other's sensitivities. For this, in our view, legal frameworks at national, regional and international level should be complimented by a culture of dialogue, understanding, tolerance, consultation and cooperation.

The need for instilling respect and tolerance for diversity is more relevant in countering the appeal of terrorism than any other means. Hence, it is crucial to combat the social exclusion of groups and individuals by ensuring that their values are respected and that they have equal opportunities in society. In addition, governments of member states, faith-based institutions, civil societies and other stakeholders should be encouraged to inculcate the values of cultural tolerance, inter-cultural dialogue, and rules of law into the minds of the society as well as the young generation/ It is also important to work towards ensuring economic and social security and advancement of citizens in all its essential aspects.

We believe that the key to achieve this objective is not for a state to stand alone and fight terrorism, but by taking collective actions in the face of terrorist acts irrespective of their origins or who their perpetrators are. In our case, as part of this global effort, the Ethiopian government has taken a number of legislative and other measures at global, regional and national levels over the years. Ethiopia has ratified 9 of the 19 international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols relating to terrorism that oblige parties to penalize offences defined in such instruments and it has also ratified a number of regional counter-terrorism instruments, including AU and IGAD agreements.

We have also enacted domestic laws, such as the 2004 FDRE Criminal Code, the Anti-Terrorism Proc. No. 652/2009 and the Anti-Money Laundering and Financing Terrorism Proclamation No. 780/2013 and provided trainings to the law enforcement and other concerned officials on the laws that aim to combat terrorism. As you all are aware, Ethiopia has been undertaking major reforms in a bid to ensure socio-economic development, widening of the political space, ensure the rule of law, media freedom and respect of human rights which include the revision of Anti-Terrorism Proclamation as may be necessary.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairperson, let me reiterate Ethiopia's support to the call for an International Summit on Terrorism 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 including identifying its root causes; as well as the conclusion of a

Comprehensive Convention for Combating International Terrorism. We call upon member states to show flexibility in resolving the outstanding issues.

I thank you.