



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

Draft Statement

International Terrorism 03/04 October 2018 – Sixth Committee

Mr. President,

At the outset, kindly allow my delegation to warmly congratulate you on your election as Chairperson of the Sixth Committee and for having competently set the tone for fruitful deliberations of the work of this committee. I wish you and your distinguished Bureau, as well as the Secretariat all the best for the weeks ahead, and assure you and your Bureau of our full support.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by Algeria on behalf of the African Group and by Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). The Government of Mauritius strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Mr. Chair,

The Government of Mauritius is leaving no stone unturned fighting terrorism. Though Mauritius has so far been spared from any terrorist activity, we fully acknowledge that it is not immune to such a reality and the risk of being victim is ever present. Safety and security of the Republic of Mauritius and of its population is and will remain a key priority for the Government.

In this regard, a series of preventive measures have been undertaken by the Mauritian authorities to avert terrorist threats and pre-empt any conducive environment to the spread of extremist ideologies, thus safeguarding our future against the shadow of terrorism.

Mauritius fully subscribes to the common strategic and operational framework within the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy (UNGCTS) to fight terrorism, thus showing consistent, unequivocal and strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestation committed by whomever, wherever and whatever purpose.

In 2009, the Government of Mauritius created the Counter Terrorism Unit under the Prime Minister's office. At that time four (4) officers were posted thereat to counter any act of terrorism and terrorism-related activities.

The Government, in its 2015-2019 Programme (paragraph 147), announced the re-organization of the Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU) with new mandates to implement the UNGCTS and as at date, the number of staff has been increased from four to twenty nine (29). In that score, the CTU was re-structured both technologically and human-resource wise.

Role of the Counter Terrorism Unit

As stipulated under section 19 of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2002, the CTU is involved in countering terrorism and related activities through the following:-

- (5.2) collecting, collating and analyzing terrorism related intelligence and disseminating it to the investigatory authorities.
- (5.3) Educating the public against terrorism and enlisting and fostering public support in combating terrorism and preventing radicalization.

Legislation

The Prevention of Terrorism Act 2002 was amended in December 2016 (Act 27 of 2016) and came into effect on 09 January 2017, to toughen our national security laws. Together, these changes have strengthened ability to arrest, monitor, investigate and prosecute returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters, prevent extremism and broaden the criteria for terrorist organizations including those that encourage terrorist acts.

On 11.07.2017 the Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism Act 2003 was amended to cater for financing of terrorism related offences.

Strict measures have been taken by the Government of Mauritius in partnerships with all the financial institutions to counter all illegal and suspicious financial transactions so that our country can't be used as platform for the financing of terrorists.

As a founder member of the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG), Mauritius endorsed the forty (40) recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and commits itself to implement these recommendations to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

Proscribed Terrorist Groups

On 09 February 2016, the Government of Mauritius declared several international terrorist groups as Proscribed organisations in Mauritius.

Counterterrorism Committee

A counterterrorism committee has been set up at the level of the Prime Minister's Office which meets quarterly to take stock of terrorism related matters in Mauritius and the region. This committee ensures the Counter Terrorism Unit has all the necessary tools to discharge its functions as per section 19 of the POTA. It also ensures that general preparedness plans in relation to counterterrorism are activated at all levels as well as reviewing the adequacy of counterterrorism legislation in Mauritius. Critical measures are undertaken by the committee as and when necessary and follow up actions are undertaken.

Regional and International Cooperation

Since networking being a key element in the fight against terrorism, organised and transnational crimes, we have already undertaken concrete measures in that sphere. The cooperation in exchange of timely and accurate information and information sharing has been enhanced through the use of different tools. We have fostered ongoing bilateral cooperation with foreign counterparts and exchange of information with regional and international institutions.

Capacity Building

The staff of the CTU have attended several in-house workshops provided by foreign experts in counter terrorism-related matters.

They have also attended workshops/courses abroad with support of friendly foreign countries, such as India, China, Egypt, Canada, South Africa, Kenya, USA.

Further support is being considered to enhance capacity building of the CTU through existing bilateral and regional cooperation.

Human Rights Compliance

In the fight against terrorism, the Government of Mauritius has always been very careful to uphold the Human Rights of every individual as enshrined in the Constitution of Mauritius, which is the supreme law. Measures have also been envisaged to give due attention to the Human Rights of victims of terrorism and to stress the importance of assisting the victims of terrorism.

National Counter Terrorism Strategy (NCTS)

In order to combat terrorism effectively inland and in the region, Mauritius is in the process of finalizing and implementing its first National

Counter Terrorism Strategy (NCTS). This strategy is derived from the SADC regional CT Strategy which is based on the four pillars of the UNGCTS and adapted to the domestic risk assumptions. The NCTS will be focused on these approaches:-

- (i) Community bonding;
- (ii) Law Enforcement;
- (iii) Intelligence Networking;
- (iv) Strategic Messaging.

Mr. Chair,

Today, terrorism exists irrespective of borders and severely undermines the sovereignty of States in a way we have never seen before. Indeed, global terrorism has emerged as one of the most pressing security challenges around the world.

In this current era, Mr. Chair, it is more important than ever that all States and international organisations reinforce their cooperation and coordination in the fight against terrorism, in accordance with our obligations under international law.

While each of our countries is reinforcing its own internal efforts to combat terrorism, we must all understand that unless we look, in a holistic and integrated manner, at the fundamental causes of extreme radicalism and fundamentalism we will continue to remain vulnerable to this scourge.

It is urgent to build consensus on global counter terrorism efforts and reinforce multilateral cooperation in fighting this scourge. Indeed, we need to pay attention to why individuals are attracted to violent extremist groups.

We are convinced that the creation of open, equitable, inclusive and pluralist societies, based on the full respect of human rights and with education and economic opportunities for all, represents the most effective way to end violent extremism.

I thank you for your kind attention.