

**Statement by Turkey**  
**at the Sixth Committee for the 73rd Session of the General Assembly**  
**under agenda item 111: "Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism"**  
**(03.10.2018)**

Mr. Chairman,

Let me join other delegations in congratulating you and other members of the Bureau on your election and assure you of my delegation's full cooperation.

Terrorism continues to be one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. It is also affecting the well-being of societies by hampering sustainable development. We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and pay respect to the memories of all the victims of terrorism.

Terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, civilization, nationality or ethnic group.

Mr Chairman,

My country continues its fight with determination against all terrorist organizations, most notably the Fethullah Gülen terrorist organization, also known as FETÖ, DEASH, Al Qaeda, PKK/PYD, as well as several left wing terror organizations. FETÖ, the mastermind of the 15 July 2016 coup attempt against the constitutional order of Turkey, is a clear and present threat to all countries and democracies. PKK and PYD/YPG are trying to exploit the developments in Syria and Iraq. A terrorist organization cannot be legitimized by claiming that it is fighting against another terrorist organization.

Regarding DAESH, although it is no longer a state-like hierarchical structure with huge financial resources that is capable of luring tens of thousands of people from different parts of the world, it continues to pose a serious threat.

Stopping the travel of Foreign Terrorist Fighters and cutting off its financing, remains crucial in denying DAESH a global reach, two areas in which Turkey has been actively engaged.

Securing the 1000 kilometres long borderline with Syria and Iraq continues to be a priority. As of September 2018, more than 68,600 people are included in our no-entry list. More than 6,800 foreign nationals suspected of FTF related activity have been deported. Genuine support and intelligence feedback from our partners will undoubtedly bolster impact of these measures, which will not only protect the people of Turkey, but also contribute to regional security and safety beyond Turkey's national borders.

Mr. Chairman,

Turkey has been calling for effective international cooperation against terrorism for many decades. We are living in an era where no single country can fight this scourge on its own. We need to act together, and support each other.

In that framework, Turkey is contributing to the activities of international organizations and working groups such as the UN, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), EUROJUST, the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCTF), the Council of Europe European Committee on Crime Problems and the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Terrorism, aimed at enhancing international and regional cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism. Turkey is also an active member of the Global Coalition Against DEASH and is co-chairing its Working Group on Foreign Terrorist Fighters with Kuwait and the Netherlands.

Over the years, Turkey also concluded bilateral agreements with more than 90 countries around the world in the field of counter terrorism. Furthermore, Turkey conducts counter terrorism capacity-building trainings in several countries around the world.

Mr. Chairman,

The international community must act with equal determination against all terrorist organizations. A selective approach with regard to terrorist organizations is unacceptable.

Likewise, we regret that members of terrorist organizations, including those targeting Turkey, are allowed to abuse the right to asylum in certain countries to circumvent justice. Effective implementation of the universal principle of "extradite or prosecute" is crucial for a collective response to terrorism.

We also need to keep in mind the importance of upholding human rights while countering terrorism and to ensure that all measures taken are consistent with our relevant international obligations.

Addressing the root causes of terrorism by preventing violent extremism, in all its forms and manifestations, also needs to remain a priority.

Addressing the close link between terrorism and organized crime, which is a primary source of terrorism financing, is also crucial. Our experience shows that terrorist organizations, particularly the PKK and its affiliates in Europe and Syria, benefit from drug smuggling, human and migrant trafficking, fuel smuggling and racketeering.

Mr. Chairman,

We see the UN as the main platform for promoting a collective and coherent response against terrorism and violent extremism.

Turkey is party to most of the UN conventions and protocols on terrorism. We attach great importance to the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy across its four pillars and have actively participated in the consultations leading to the adoption of the resolution on its 6th review. We actively contribute to the work and capacity building efforts of the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre. We commend the efforts of the newly-established UN Office of Counter-Terrorism and welcome the first UN High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of member states held last June, which has been instrumental in building new partnerships in the fight against terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

We look forward to a fruitful discussion in the Sixth Committee under this agenda item this session, and to working closely with Member States, on measures to eliminate international terrorism. We also hope that progress will be achieved on the negotiations aimed at concluding the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

Thank you.